Connecting you to your community since 1843

THURSDAY, August 14, 2025

The Courier Leader

75¢

SERVING PAW PAW • LAWTON • MATTAWAN • LAWRENCE • GOBLES • VAN BUREN COUNTY

Volume 8, Issue 33 wilcoxnewspapers.com • 269-657-3072 USPS 564-620

Lawrence Township Fire Department holds a Centennial celebration

A centennial celebration was held Saturday, Aug. 9, in Lawrence for the Lawrence Township Fire Department. The event featured fire truck demos, food trucks, games, raffles, music and family fun. Shown in photo from left, Lawrence Township Supervisor, Donna Spenner, Lawrence Township Clerk, Tracie Rindfield, Van Buren County Register of Deeds, Paul DeYoung, Lawrence Township Fire Chief, Steve Richardson, Lawrence Town-ship Treasurer, Kimberly Kiley, and Lawernce Township Board member, Mike Carpp.

Photos courtesy/ Lawrene Township

Former Van Buren County Specialty Court Administrator arrested on embezzlement charges over $100k

PAW PAW - Michigan State Police (MSP) Fifth District Special Investigation Section an-nounced the arrest of Rachel Celeste Lindley, 42 of Bethesda, Maryland, for felony embezzlement over $100,000 and felony embezzlement by a public official.

Lindley previously worked for Van Buren County as the Specialty Court Administra-tor. Following her separation from the county, she relocated to Maryland where she current-ly resides and works.

Lindley was arrested following an MSP led investigation that uncovered evidence she embezzled over $100,000 from various grants. She was arraigned in the 7thth District Court on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Embezzlement over $100,000 is a felony, punishable by imprisonment up to 20 years and/or a fine of not more than $50,000. Embezzlement by a public officer is a felony, punishable by imprisonment up to 10 years and/or a fine of not more than $5,000.

Gobles man faces several charges including strangulation

A 31-year-old Gobles man faces several charges following an incident Wednesday, Aug. 6, according to a press release from eh Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

The incident took place at approximately 10 p.m. in the 25000 block of 36th Street.

Deputies responded to a report of a female victim who arrived at a neighbor's residence in a hysterical state, with visible bruising and bleeding. Investigation revealed that her boyfriend had punched and kicked her multiple times, broke her phone as she attempted to call 911, and confined her in a bathroom during the assault. The victim eventually escaped, ran down the street, and sought help from neighbors, who assisted her and called 911.

While deputies were interviewing the victim, they, along with Michigan State Police (MSP), responded to the suspect's residence to locate him. The male fled on foot and could not be immediately located. A short time later, a witness reported seeing the suspect riding a bicycle nearby. Deputies responded to the area, located the suspect, and took him into custody without further incident.

The victim was transported to the hospital for treatment of her injuries.

He faces charges of assault by strangulation, unlawful Imprisonment, interfering with electronic communications, and obstructing justice.

SUV crashes into Amish buggy in Bloomingdale Twp., multiple injuries reported

BLOOMINGDALE TWP. – Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched Friday, Aug. 8, at 7:45 p.m. to the 45000 block of County Road 388 for a report that an SUV had crashed into an Amish buggy. Upon arrival, deputies located the crashed buggy and found there were six occupants who had been in the buggy.

Sheriff Abbott said five of the occupants had obvious injuries and deputies began life saving measures on the subject with the most serious injuries. Multiple ambulances arrived on scene and began treating and transporting the injured subjects. All six subjects were transported to area hospitals, four of which had serious injuries and one with critical injuries.

The driver of the SUV remained on scene and was cooperative with deputies during the investigation.

Sheriff Abbott said the initial investigation showed that the buggy was westbound on CR 388 when it was hit from behind by the SUV. It appeared that speed and alcohol were both factors in the crash.

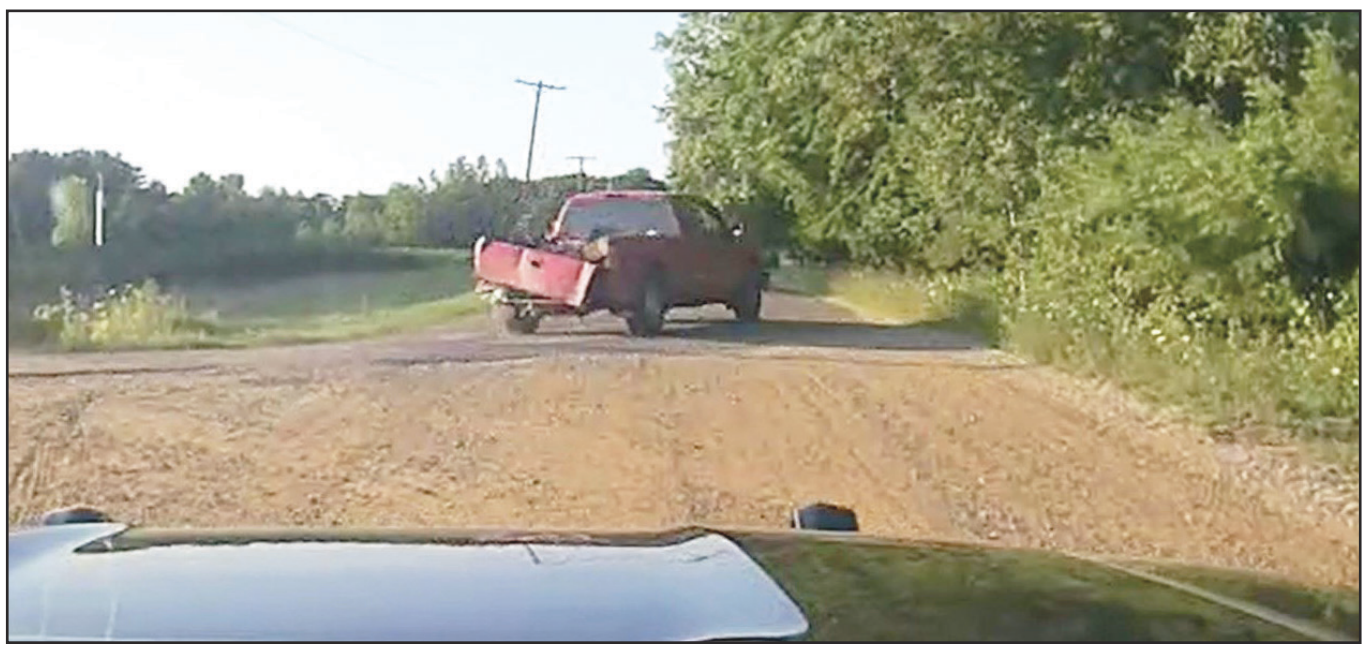
The driver of the SUV was arrested for operating while intoxicated causing serious in-jury and transported to the Van Buren County Jail, Paw Paw.

County Road 388 was closed for four hours while the crash was investigated. The in-vestigation is ongoing.

Deputies were assisted on scene by Bloomingdale and Columbia fire departments, LIFE EMS, and Van Buren Emergency Medical Services (VBEMS).

Grand Junction man faces charges following four-mile pursuit

Sheriff Daniel E. Abbott reports that on 08/07/2025 at approximately 7:30 p.m. a Deputy on patrol in Columbia township attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a pickup truck for multiple traffic violations. The driver of the vehicle failed to stop and a pursuit was initiated. The pursuit lasted approximately 4 miles with the suspect vehicle speeds reaching 90 mph. During the pursuit the suspect attempted to get the contents of the bed of the truck to spill in front of the Deputy by making abrupt turns, heavy braking, and hard acceleration. The suspect vehicle eventually went off road through a blueberry field and the Deputy lost sight of it. The vehicle was located at a nearby residence a short time later and the suspect, a 27 year old Grand Junction man, was taken into custody without incident. He was lodged at the Van Buren County Jail for fleeing and eluding and an outstanding warrant from another county.



Shamrock Shakers
4-H Club Would Like to Say
THANK YOU
To all Our 2025 Van Buren Youth Fair Buyers

ISAIAH WALKER
Swine
Roy Farms

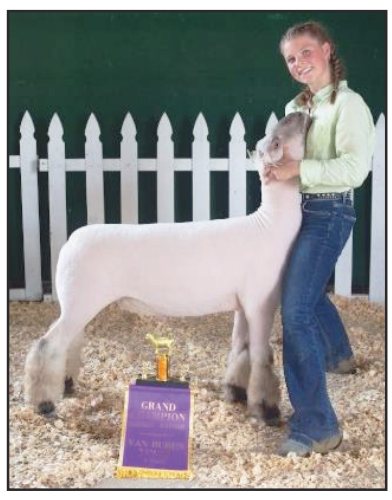
ZOIE ZANTELLO
Beef Market Steer
Jason Avery

HARRISON MARTIN
Swine
Red Arrow Dairy
Market Chickens
Santa

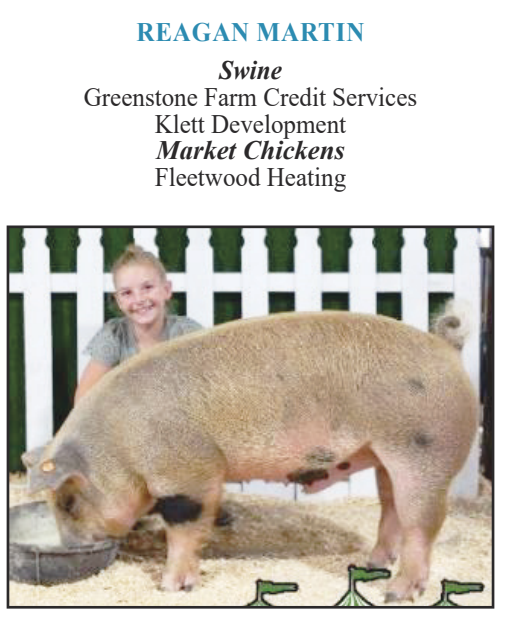
RILEY KUBISZAK
Swine
Sill Farms Market
Keystone Cooperative
Dairy Feeder Calf
Division Tire & Battery
Klett Recycle
Sheep
Dynasty Seed Company

Thank you, Dusti Whittington, for the wonderful photos you took all week. Our 4-H club appreciates all you do for us and for the entire Livestock project at the fair!

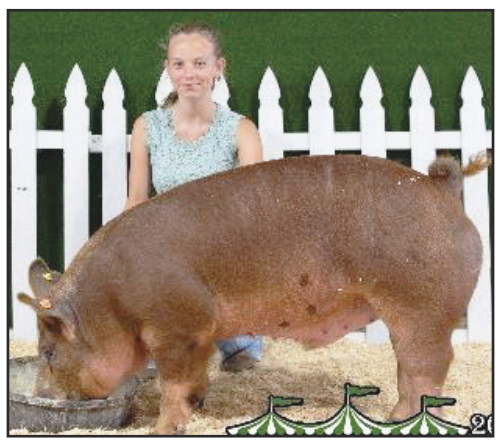
HUNTER CONKLIN
Grand Champion Beef Steer
Grand Champion Born and Raised
Grand Champion Steer Rate of Gain
Klett Development
Beef Steer
A&A Little Red Shed Farm Market
Swine
Field Plumbing & Heating, Inc.



MOLLY KUBISZAK
Grand Champion Heavy Weight Dairy Feeder Calf
Supreme Champion Dairy Feeder Calf
Sheep
Grand Champion Market Wether Lamb
Wheatfield Grain
Van Buren County Farm Bureau
Swine
Brookside Farms
Division Tire & Battery
Beef Steer
Palos Electric Company



ANNSLEE FRITZ
Sheep
Keystone Cooperative

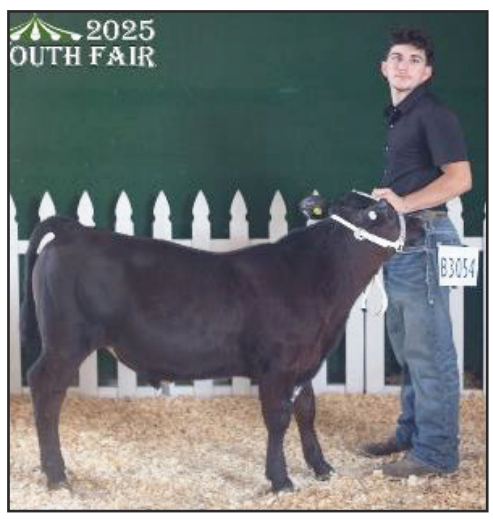


REAGAN MARTIN
Swine
Greenstone Farm Credit Services
Klett Development
Market Chickens
Fleetwood Heating

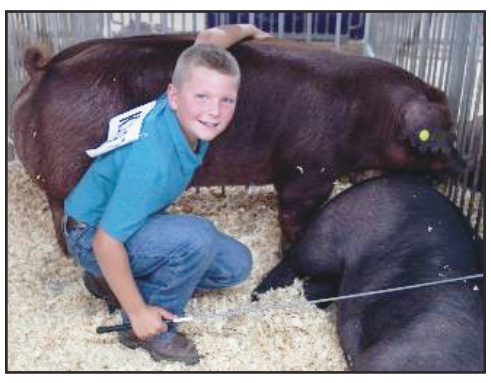
FOSTER MARTIN
Swine
Farm Bureau Brandon Yanna
Wheatfield Grain
Market Chickens
Turner Farms

ISAAC WALKER
Dairy Breed 4 year old Dairy Class Winner!
Dairy Heifer
Thanks for your ***Gallon of Milk*** Donations!

CHARLI WHITTINGTON
Swine
Crystal Flash
Chris & Carrie Baker
Dairy Feeder Calf
Division Tire & Battery
Southwestern Michigan College
Sheep
Quality Cannabis Company



AZARIAH BRENNEMAN
Beef Feeder Calf
Santa



TUCKER KUBISZAK
Swine
Pillar Manufacturing
Palos Electric Company
Grasshopper Farms
Dairy Feeder Calf
Division Tire & Battery
Keystone Cooperative

Congratulations to our 1 st Place Top Showmanship Winners:

Reagon Martin Jr. Showman Small Animal Chicken, ***OVERALL Junior Showmanship Sweepstakes Grand Champion Small Animal WINNER***
Molly Kubiszak Young II Showman Dairy Feeder Calf, ***OVERALL Junior Showmanship Sweepstakes Grand Champion Large Animal WINNER***
Hunter Conklin Junior Showman Steer, ***Junior Showmanship Sweepstakes 4th Place Large Animal Winner***
Isaiah Walker Senior I Showman Dairy, ***Senior Showmanship Sweepstakes 7th Place Large Animal Winner***

2ND FRONT PAGE

Staff Writer, Paul Garrod celebrates 40 years at the C-L

Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

This week, Staff Writer Paul Garrod is celebrating a rare and remarkable milestone: 40 years as a full-time journalist with the Courier-Leader.

In the mid-1980s, the Courier-Leader was growing — expanding its coverage and its staff. Then-editor Fil Racette hired Paul, a recent Western Michigan University journalism graduate from Lawrence, to join the newsroom.

He stepped into that role in August 1985 and has since weathered the changes of four offices, three editors, and two families of ownership.

Over the years, his byline has become a familiar sight to readers and a trusted voice chronicling the people, places, and events that shape Van Buren County.

Today, Paul is as busy as ever connecting people to their communities. In addition to his reporting duties, he proofreads every page of the Courier-Leader, Paw Paw Flashes, and South Haven Beacon. He is also an active member of the Van Buren Youth Fair board.

"Paul is a rarity in the journalism industry," said Mike Wilcox, editor and publisher of the Courier-Leader. "In my 50-plus years of experience, I've seen very few employees stick with the same newspaper for 40 years. His dedication to the Courier-Leader and Van Buren County is very admirable."

Mike Wilcox owns 12 newspapers, and Paul is the longest-tenured employee across all of them.

On behalf of myself, Assistant Publisher Jordan Wilcox, my father, Mike, and everyone here at Wilcox Newspapers, we are proud to call Paul both a colleague and a friend. Congratulations on this extraordinary achievement, Paul! If you see him around this week, please take a moment to say hello and thank him for 40 years of stories well told!

South Haven City Council asked to consider a proposed electric utility ordinance

By James Windell

The city of South Haven's electricity rates may be headed higher. However, customers have not experienced a rate increase for a decade.

The City Manager, Kate Hosier, and the Director of Public Works, Dana Burd, both spoke briefly to the South Haven City Council at the regular meeting on Monday, August 4, 2025, in introducing an amended ordinance that would allow a rate increase.

Hosier said that she and Burd were requesting the introduction of a proposed ordinance that would allow updates to the city's electricity policy and rates. The current ordinance sets the rates for electricity, Hosier said, "And the rates need to be adjusted."

The City Council was being asked to consider a motion to introduce the proposed electric utility ordinance and set the matter for a public hearing to occur on August 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The City Code of Ordinances currently requires an ordinance to change the electric rate structures. The proposed ordinance would amend Section 86-36 to allow the City to change the electric rate structure by resolution.

Furthermore, if the proposed ordinances were approved, residents could expect to see monthly rates go from the current $6.00 a month to $12.00 a month in 2027. The rates for commercial electricity would also go up over the next two years.

In his remarks, Burd said that the city has been working with the consulting firm of Utility Financial Services on both sewer utilities and electrical utilities in regard to rates and policy matters. "We have been working with them for some time on a Cost of Service study," Burd said. "Cost of Service means that we evaluate our rates and fees based on what it costs us as a municipality to provide that service to the customer." He said that the study determined that it has been about 10 years since electricity rates were last adjusted.

Burd went on to say that when reviewing the study with the city attorneys, it was recommended that the ordinance be updated. "Typically, the rates that the city adopts are through an ordinance change which requires a first reading, a public hearing, and a second reading," Burd said. "So, what is before the Council is the first reading of the ordinance."

Councilwoman Mary Hosley expressed concern about increasing rates through a resolution rather than a city ordinance because she said a resolution could be passed in one meeting whereas an ordinance would require two meetings. She also said she thought the new rates would penalize those who use less water. In responding to that, Burd said the proposed base rate is more "representative of a year around cost." He explained that providing electricity incurs cost to the city even when customers are not using their electricity.

Hosley said that she hears from residents that "monthly fees are killing" them. "The monthly fees plus millages and taxes are what is driving people out," Hosley said.

Councilman George Sleeper made a motion was made to introduce the proposed changes to the ordinance and schedule a public hearing on August 18, 2025, at 7:00 pm during the next City Council meeting. Hosley said she couldn't support the motion because she needed more information. The motion was passed with Hosley casting the one dissenting vote. A public hearing on the changes to the ordinance that would allow a electricity rate increase on August 18.

Assault / Medical Emergency at 79th Avenue and 62nd Street

Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a male subject assaulting a female while inside a vehicle. The female later sought medical treatment at Bronson Lakeview Hospital. The incident was initially reported as occurring in Hartford Township. While deputies were interviewing the victim, EMS was dispatched to the 62000 block of 79th Avenue for a medical emergency involving the male suspect. He was transported to St. Joseph Hospital for treatment. Due to his medical condition, the case has been forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office for review.

Deputies took a report of a stolen utility trailer, last seen on July 23. Follow-up investigations are ongoing based on developing leads.

Deputies responded to a firearms accident involving a 42-year-old male who sustained a serious hand injury from the accidental discharge of a muzzleloader. A preliminary investigation suggests a mechanical failure during a test fire, described as a "rapid unplanned self-initiated disassembly." The injury resulted from the blast, not a projectile.

Deputies were dispatched to a large party with an estimated 300 to 400 attendees. Responding officers encountered significant traffic congestion and several physical altercations. Due to a lack of cooperation from attendees, no charges were filed. The event was monitored and gradually dispersed by approximately 0200 hours.

Deputies responded to reports of unlawful entry into three vehicles overnight. Various tools and personal items were reported stolen. An initial report has been completed; the Sheriff's Office is awaiting a full inventory of property stolen from the victim.

Deputies were dispatched to a Cornerstone facility regarding a male subject who had assaulted staff members and damaged a vehicle using a chair. Upon arrest, the suspect spit in a deputy's face and resisted restraint. Charges include:

oTwo counts of assault
oMalicious destruction of property (MDOP)
oResisting and obstructing a police officer

A domestic dispute initially reported as a civil matter escalated when the female party alleged that an assault occurred the previous night. She claimed the male suspect reached down her pants, while he contended, he was attempting to retrieve hidden keys. Due to conflicting statements and lack of corroborating evidence, no arrests were made. The report has been forwarded to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Deputies responded to a report of a female victim arriving at a neighbor's residence in a hysterical state, with visible bruising and bleeding. Investigation revealed that her boyfriend had punched and kicked her multiple times, broke her phone as she attempted to call 911, and confined her in a bathroom during the assault. She eventually escaped and sought help from neighbors. The male suspect was located shortly thereafter and taken into custody. He was lodged on the following charges:

oAssault by strangulation
oUnlawful imprisonment
oInterfering with electronic communications
oObstructing justice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that The Shed Self Storage, phone (269) 200-2156, located at 72819 M 40, Lawton, MI, 49065 will hold a Public Sale, to satisfy the lien of the owner. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Michigan Compiled Statutes 570.521 to 570.527. Units will be sold via online auction, at www.StorageAuctions.com. Auction will close on or after Wednesday August 27, 2025 at 10:00 am. The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to household goods, furniture, tools, equipment, toys, boxes, clothes and misc items. Owner reserves the right to bid and the right to refuse bids. Cleanup deposit is required. Sale is subject to cancellation. The contents of the rental storage units belonging to the following persons will be sold:
Paul Hatfield
David Howard

PAW PAW DISTRICT LIBRARY
CHECK IT OUT!
UPCOMING EVENTS 8/18 - 8/23
Monday, August 18
10 am-11 am
TODDLERS: Storytime
Thursday, August 21
10 am-11 am
BABIES & TODDLERS: Mother Goose on the Loose
Thursday, August 21
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
ADULTS: Heartbreak Book Club
Breathe the Sky by Michelle Hazen
Thursday, August 21
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
ADULTS: Between the Lines Book Club
The Last Animal by Ramona Ausubel
Tickets for the 2025 Prospect Hill Cemetery Tour are on sale now!
Visit pawpawlib.org to learn more.
Visit pawpawlib.org or call 269.657.3800 for more information!

GET YOUR NEWS ONLINE
Sign Up Today for our E-Papers.
IT'S EASY!
Just visit our website @ epaper.wilcoxnewspapers.com to start your $20.00 email Subscription.

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIALS
• GET: YOUR BOCK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES AT LIZEL'S
• FROM NEW AND USED CLOTHES TO BACKPACKS. WE HAVE IT!
LIQUIDATIONS EST LIZEL'S 2025 & THRIFT STORE
10% OFF CLOTHES This week only!
VISIT NOW
102 S. State Street
At the Light
Downtown Gobles, MI
(269) 366-7434
★ We also have BALL & MASON JARS for your garden harvest

FREE POPCORN | FREE COTTON CANDY
SATURDAY & SUNDAY ONLY
HOURS 10am - 6pm • Tuesday to Sunday
PHONE: 269-366-7434

South Haven Police and SHAES' medics receive commendations for actions during standoff

By James Windell

Two South Haven police officers and two South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) medics were rewarded for their bravery in the face of danger at the South Haven City Council Meeting on August 4, 2025.

Van Buren County Undersheriff Casey Davis said the county SWAT team was called out to a home on County Road 388 on July 4 after officers had a pipe bomb thrown at them by the suspect. Once SWAT arrived, the suspect threatened to kill the police officers and threw more pipe bombs.

South Haven Police Department's Sergeant Pat Carlotto and Officer Kevin Wildy, along with SHAES medics Rex Haner and Shawn Smith, were all presented with letters of commendation by Davis. All four men are members of the Van Buren County SWAT team that were called to the scene.

"Being a part of this situation and being the team leader for the SWAT team, it was probably one of the worst calls that I've been a part of," Davis said. "The amount of heroism that these guys displayed was incredible. They were professional, they came up with a plan, they executed that plan, and ultimately, I believe that not only saved a lot of officer's lives, but we were able to use the less lethal 9approach] in order to take him into custody and he didn't lose his life."

Davis said it took the use of tear gas and a "less-lethal shotgun" to get the suspect into custody. However, the four men, according to Davis, "looked danger in the face" by getting within the blast zone of another bomb should one have been thrown.

Mayor Annie Brown said the community sends its heartfelt gratitude to the group for helping to protect the people of South Haven.

GET YOUR NEWS ONLINE
Sign Up Today for our E-Papers.
IT'S EASY!
Just visit our website @epaper.wilcoxnewspapers.com to start your $20.00 email Subscription.

South Haven to salute veterans

By James Windell

South Haven will pay tribute to veterans in the 13th annual Salute to Veterans on Friday, August 15 and Saturday, August 16, 2025.

Bruce Thatcher, himself a former a First Lieutenant in the First Calvary Division during the Vietnam War, is asking that people "pack the piers" along the Black River to celebrate the service of local veterans.

"This event has grown into a two-day celebration because of the South Haven Steelheaders working with Operation Injured Soldiers," says Thatcher, who along with Becky Bachus, Jeff Dehn, and Matt Nilson, coordinate the Salute to Veterans. The Southwest Michigan chapter of Operation Injured Soldier is a volunteer-driven organization that aids in both physical and mental rehabilitation of wounded soldiers, primarily through free-of-charge outdoor recreational activities.

Thatcher says that the salute starts on Friday, August 15, when 70 veterans, some from Battle Creek Veterans Administration Hospital and others from around the state, will be brought to South Haven and will go to the South Haven Rod & Gun Club. "There they will have a fun, but well-supervised outing taking target practice," Thatcher says. "After that, we will go to the South Haven American Legion for dinner."

On Saturday, August 15, the veterans meet at 5:00 am at the River Bend Boat Club where they will board boats for a morning of fishing on Lake Michigan. Just before noon, all of the boats will rendezvous outside the South Pier Lighthouse where a boat parade will begin.

"At noon we have the boat parade that will feature the Coast Guard, the Maritime Museum's rescue boat, and a marine unit from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department," says Thatcher. "The boats will come down the channel in the Black River and there will be thousands of people on the shore waving flags. All while the South Haven High School band is playing." In addition, there will be an Honor Guard from the American Legion and the Parade Marshal, Greg Myrkle, a Vietnam War Navy Veteran, will salute each boat carrying the veterans. During the boat parade, there will be a fly over as well.

Thatcher, who has helped organize the Salute to Veterans event since it began, says that the South Haven Steelheaders along with Operation Injured Soldiers have been key partners in sponsoring the salute. Also, the South Haven American Legion, Post 94, the South Haven Moose Lodge 697, and the South Haven Masonic Lodge all make a significant contribution to the event.

For more information, visit the Operation Injured Soldiers website at https://injuredsoldiers.org/south-haven-salute

Bangor Historical Society holds Meeting for residents to learn about scams

By James Windell

Worried about being the victim of a scam?

There are ways to spot a scam and protect yourself.

Van Buren County Undersheriff Casey Davis will be presenting "Stop a Scam Plus" to help residents of Van Buren County to be more aware of potential scams and to learn what to do if they think they may be the target of a scam. The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm in the Odd Fellows Hall, 235 W. Monroe Street, Bangor.

"The main focus is on the scams that are being perpetrated in Van Buren County in person, by phone, or by computer and to learn about new scams," says Cindra Bishop, who is on the Board of the Bangor Historical Society.

Bishop said the "Plus" in the title of the presentation indicates that Davis will also talk about what one should do when there is an emergency or illegal activity going on. "He will tell people when to Call 911 and when you do what information to give," Bishop says.

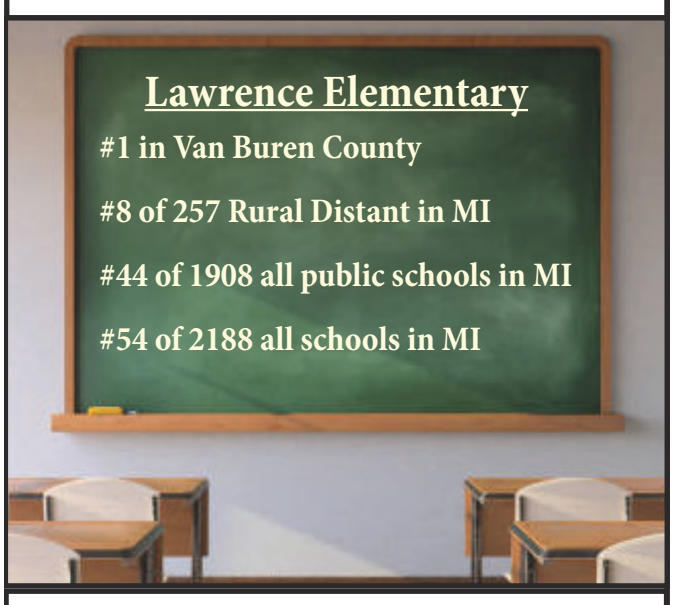
According to Bishop, "Most of our members are Senior Citizens, and they are the ones who are so vulnerable to being scammed. Senior Citizens also may have little idea how to use the new technology of 911 and what to do or when to call in an emergency."

The Bangor Historical Society sponsors a variety of free programs throughout the year that are open to the public. While most such programs focus on the history of the Bangor area or of Michigan, some events are community service programs.

"Stop a Scam Plus" is free and open to the public. The meeting will take place on the second floor of the Odd Fellows Hall and an elevator is available. The Bangor Historical Museum, on the first floor, is open for viewing an hour before the program. Light refreshments will be served.

Blue Horizon
Nursery & Display Gardens

Just 8mi. from South Haven
9721 59th Street • Grand Junction MI 49056
Wed thru Sun • 10am to 6pm
269.998.8165 • bluehorizonnursery.com

Lawrence Public Schools
Our mission is to empower, inspire, and challenge students to champion a lifetime of education and excellence! Our dedicated and caring staff offer personalized instruction with a 15 to 1 student to teacher ration. LPS offers flexible learning oppertunities and engaging curriculum that will prepare students for their next steps.

Lawrence Elementary
#1 in Van Buren County
#8 of 257 Rural Distant in MI
#44 of 1908 all public schools in MI
#54 of 2188 all schools in MI
LES ranked #1 in Van Buren County by the State of Michigan Context and Performance Report. The analysis compares Michigan public schools' relative performance on academic achievement.
Why Choose LPS?
Dedicated and Caring Staff
Personalized Student Supports
Student Centered Programming
Flexible Learining Opportunities
Engaging Student Activities
Student Supports:
☑ Pwrsonalized Instruction
☑ Student: Teacher Ratio 15:1
☑ Before and after School Programming
☑ Response To Intervention
☑ College & Careet Readiness Programs
☑ Social - Emotional Supports
Student Activities:
Athletics - Go Tigers!
Visual & Performing Arts Curriculum
Extra- curricular clubs
Cost- Effective Youth Sports Programs
Award Winning Marching Band
Rich Athletic History
JOIN THE PRIDE!
UNLEASH THE POTENTIAL!
Small Schools
BIG OPPORTUNITIES
★★★ ENROLL NOW ★★★
LPS is now accepting School of Choice applications
WWW.LAWRENCETIGERS.ORG * (269)539-5904 * annewildey@lawrencetigers.org

Sloop pay tribute to SH's lighthouse

In a fitting tribute to South Haven's "beacon of light", the sloop Friends Good Will from the Michigan Maritime Museum approaches the iconic lighthouse at the Lake Michigan entrance to the Black River on Thursday (August 7) in commemoration of National Lighthouse Day which marks the day in 1789 when the U.S. Congress passed an act supporting lighthouses, beacons, buoys, and public piers. South Haven's lighthouse was erected in 1872. Friends Good Will is a replica of a top sail merchant sloop that plied the waters of the Great Lakes in the early 19th century. **Photo by Tom Renner**

GET YOUR NEWS ONLINE
Sign Up Today for our E-Papers.
IT'S EASY!
Just visit our website @ epaper.wilcoxnewspapers.com to start your $20.00 email Subscription.
I SAW IT IN THE FLASHES

Otto as Winston Churchill in South Haven Theatre Series

By James Windell

Randy Otto delights in talking about Winston Churchill. But what makes an interview even better is when he is in a traffic jam and has nothing else to do but give an interviewer his undivided attention.

That's the way it happened recently when Otto was driving to Charleston, South Carolina and was stuck in a massive traffic jam and going nowhere when I called him.

During our conversation he said that he was looking forward to doing "Churchill: The Blitz" for the South Haven Theatre Series on Saturday, August 16, 2025. He mentioned that he was last in South Haven about three years ago when he previously performed as Winston Churchill.

Otto, who lives in Beaufort, South Carolina, has been traveling the United States for more than 50 years portraying Winston Churchill.

It all started, however, when he was in college and he was caught imitating his British History Professor imitating Winston Churchill.

"My British History professor, Dr. Max Schoenfeld, my great Churchillian mentor, he caught me imitating him imitating Winston Churchill in front of a group of students. He said those famous words that I'll never forget: 'You might have something there, Mr. Otto. Step into my office,' Otto related chuckling. "I thought I was going to flunk the class, but we became great friends, and he poured Churchill into me. And I guess you can say the rest is history."

Otto began doing workshops on Churchill while still in college, but when Schoenfeld and he went to see Hal Holbrook do his Mark Twain one-man performance, his professor said something else that was memorable: "After the show, Max said to me, 'You're going to do that someday,'" Otto recalls.

One of his most popular shows is "Churchill: The Blitz." "Essentially, The Blitz gives a biographical look at Churchill's life," Otto explained. "It follows him from the time he was born and he talks about growing up in Victorian England. After becoming a member of Her Majesty's armed forces, Churchill talks about the different battlefields that he fought on."

Otto said that the backstory is his relationship with his mom and dad, especially with his dad, which was strained. "But he admired and adored his father and wanted to emulate him." He says the show is a story of both redemption and destiny. "Not only does Winston come to grips with mistakes that he made, but it is also his story of destiny. That was a word that Winston used often – even when he was a young boy. He would tell his friends that he would be a great leader someday."

"The Blitz" continues into World War II and the show finally ends with Winston atop a building at the Cabinet War Rooms. "When the bombs started to drop everyone else would go underground, but Winston would go to the top of the building to see what was the worst of that night's damage," Otto says. "He and his guards would go up there and be there with the people most affected by the bombing. He said you can't lead from a bunker; you have to touch the troops. His leadership style was face-to-face or what I call belly-to-belly, but it was really heart-to-heart."

Randy Otto credits Hal Holbrook for mentoring him and helping him develop as a portrayer of Churchill.

"I met Holbrook at Southern Illinois University," Otto said. "I was standing in the receiving line behind the velvet rope when suddenly I heard across the room, 'You must be Mr. Churchill,' in his Mark Twain voice. I walked toward him, and I immediately went into Winston. I said, 'I remember the night we met, Mr. Twain, it was December the 9th in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.'"

Holbrook stayed in character as Twain and the two of them created the one and only time that Twain and Churchill met. "For about 25 minutes we carried forth," Otto recalls. "It was just wonderful. Here was an Academy-Award-winning actor and this unknown person; just me trying to emulate him and his show."

Afterwards, they met and talked about performing a one-man show. "We sat down together and were the only two people in the room. He said, 'What do you want to know?' I told him I was stuck and I needed to get busted loose and he told me: 'You don't need a script. All you need to do is tell the stories and string them together with segues.' He said that the segues are the key to getting from one story to the next. 'It's all I do,' he said. 'I tell stories and I segue.'

Holbrook told him one more thing about seques. "You do that, and you'll be doing that when you're my age."

Otto then pointed out that since he is now in his 70s, "I guess I'm approaching his age."

When he had gotten through the traffic jam and was moving along Highway 17 again, he said he had a message he wants to convey to the audience in South Haven. "It's a simple mathematical equation. Truth plus Belief equals Trust," he said.

"Churchill trusted the British people with the truth but they wouldn't believe it throughout the 1930s. But they finally learned to believe the truth that he was speaking about Hitler and an astonishing thing happened. That was trust. They had to trust each other, and that was the glue that held everyone together – throughout the war and beyond. That mathematical equation shows Winston Churchill growing and flowering into the greatest statesman who ever lived."

A highlight of the show will be a question-and-answer segment at the end in which audience members can ask Churchill questions. "I always say to people this is your big chance to ask the Prime Minister anything you want," Otto said. "People have said it is the most memorable part of the show."

Otto's show "Winston Churchill: The Blitz" will be presented on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at 7:30 pm at Listiak Auditorium, 600 Elkenburg Street, South Haven. General admission tickets are $15.00 and can be purchased online or at the door. To purchase tickets or for more information, go to https://www.southhaventheatreseries.org

Embrace a New Level of Self-Care
Built on Science, Tradition & Personalized Solutions
BLOOM Wellness
Therapeutic Massage
Book your Appointment online
www.bloomwellnessacupuncture.com
Use code BLOOM at checkout to receive $15 off your next message or wellness session.
The Relaxation You Deserve
269-768-0401
509 Phoenix Street, South Haven, MI 49090

VIEWPOINT

Michigan's SNAP Fraud Crisis- fraud running rampant

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Michigan's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — a lifeline for roughly 1.4 million residents — is being chipped away, quite literally, by inadequate technology and sluggish enforcement.

In fiscal year 2024, fraud in Michigan's SNAP program surged by nearly 400%, reaching a staggering $884,947 in replacement benefits—up from just $181,778 the year before. Over the first quarter of 2025 alone, stolen benefits amounted to over $846,856.

Why this dramatic increase? The culprits: outdated magnetic-strip Bridge Cards, easily cloned via skimmers and fake card readers often installed at convenience stores, gas stations, and grocery outlets.

I'm not well-versed in this technology but apparently unscrupulous store owners are employing skimmers and fake card readers to steal from the program. The practice, if the aforementioned numbers are correct is multiplying at a rapid rate, all at the expense of those that deserve SNAP benefits.

Meanwhile, banks adopted chip-enabled cards back in 2015. Michigan's failure to follow suit isn't just behind the times—it's denying protection to its most vulnerable residents.

Changing to chip-based SNAP cards would cost roughly $16.3 million upfront and $2.7 million annually—but half of that is federally subsidized, leaving Michigan with an $8 million price tag.

So far, the state hasn't made the change. I ask, why not?

Yet in FY 2024, fraud payouts alone exceeded $14 million a sum that dwarfs the cost of a one-time upgrade. That means every Swiper's swipe is leaving a deeper mark on taxpayers and deserving families alike.

There is also fraud from inside. In other words those administering the SNAP program, allegedly are taking from it as well.

A shocking whistleblower case has come to light according to Michigan Confidential. Ashanta Butler, a longtime state employee of 23 years, claims she was fired shortly after reporting coworkers who were allegedly stealing SNAP benefits. She filed a court complaint alleging the scheme involved managers, including one named Angela Barbee, and that she was retaliated against by her supervisor Rachel Hill for making the protected report .If substantiated, these allegations would provide a troubling explanation for Michigan's nearly 400% spike in food stamp fraud from fiscal years 2023 to 2024.

While fraud has spiked, enforcement has lagged. Between 2023 and 2024, Michigan referred only 110–111 cases for investigation—about the same as in previous years—even as fraud ballooned.

From 2020 to 2024, only 432 individuals were considered for prosecution—an alarmingly small number in the context of tens of millions of dollars in lost benefits.

Michigan has taken some steps: seizing 44 skimmers, disqualifying, suspending, or fining dozens of retailers, and sending warning letters and alerts to households.

It also received federal grants—$749,987 in 2023 and $746,445 in 2024—to bolster fraud detection analytics and recipient education.

But these efforts, while essential, are patchwork. Without the foundational upgrade to chip technology and cleaning up the fraud from within the system remains inherently vulnerable.

Michigan faces a tragic irony: choosing fiscal delay now only results in greater expense later. The failure to modernize SNAP card technology isn't just a security oversight—it's an ethical lapse, exposing families to theft and leaving tax dollars to fall through the cracks.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

"A man is just about as happy as he makes up his mind to be," said Abraham Lincoln. A contemporary French writer we'll call "C" added, "It takes tremendous courage to be happy."

"C" has every reason to be miserable. She was born during World War II when the Nazis were overrunning France. Her father was gone, and her first job was working behind the counter at a department store selling brassieres to very wealthy women.

That lit a fire in her heart and brain, and somehow she found funds to go to law school and became a successful lawyer, practicing later in the United States.

Like Coco Chanel, she drank champagne only when she fell in love or when her heart was broken. Let's just say she went through a lot of bottles.

Her husband traded her in on a new and more sporty model, leaving her all alone after retirement, so she started a new niche career teaching Americans how to swear in French. "Happiness," she says, "is hard earned."

In case you are wondering, I signed on as one of her students. It adds to my happiness knowing I can break out the epithets to boneheaded drivers and they will never know what I'm saying.

I got to try it out the other day in Holland when a woman was walking behind me, focused on her phone, and walked into me. She had no idea what I said, but from the tone of my voice she could tell I was not in a chipper mood.

Some people are inherently happy, as if they were born that way. Fortunately, they are rare because most of us aren't so cheerful. After a too much time in their company we find their perpetual happiness annoying. For us, we have to work at happiness.

I agree it takes courage to be happy, especially nowadays. Politics on all levels seems like an endless siege. Reading about what's going on in Washington and Lansing is like a television where every channel is professional wrestling 24 hours a day, with no off button. There is no joy in all that phoniness and trash talk.

All the prattle about public policy decisions, especially on immigration, the economy and endless war in the Middle East and elsewhere wears us down. We fight over Bibles and posters of the 10 Commandments, lunches in school, medical care or a federal order to round up the homeless and cart them off somewhere. All that is grinding too.

Ask someone how he or she is doing, and it's a rare to hear they are happy. Eight years ago I said "good morning" to someone, and they tore a strip off me. How dare I use the word "good" when we see what is happening in the world.

I think happiness can begin first thing in the morning if we avoid the temptation of turning on our telephone, TV, radio or any other noise-making device. We need time to be quiet, reflect, perhaps plan the day and meditate. That in turn leads to gratitude. We realize how fortunate we are to be alive, to have something to do and ability to do it.

It takes courage to turn off the electronic devices and not let our curiosity overwhelm us. Whatever happened in the world over night will still be discussed in another hour, if we must listen to it then. Take the hour or even half-hour to set your mental disposition dial on happiness instead of fear you'll miss out on something.

Psychologists tell us two conditions — time and control — lead to our unhappiness: time and control. We never have enough time to all we want to do, or someone is often interfering with our time.

Theodore Roosevelt was perhaps our least-patient president. He could not stand being idle and enforced idleness made him as restless as a wild animal in a small cage. A lot of people are that way.

When I was writing my mysteries, my main character, Dr. Horace Balfour, was based in small part on him and other restless people. His phrase was, "Thunderation! I'm stuck in the waiting room again!"

Roosevelt had the good sense always to have a book nearby. Whenever he was "stuck in the waiting room" he got out something to read.

Before going on his African safari in 1909-1910, he commissioned some 100 classic books bound in pig's skin. Pigskin, he explained, did not mold and Africa was damp. It worked. If he was waiting for someone or something, much to everyone's relief, out came a book.

I followed that example when Pat and I traveled. She loved to shop; I hate shopping but wanted her to have fun. A pocketsize electronic reader, a Kindle Paperwhite, solved the problem. I loaded it down with free books and could enjoy myself.

One time, when Pt found me outside a shop engrossed in a book, she asked what I was reading. I told her it was the history of the Minnesota Third Infantry Militia in the Great Sioux Uprising of 1862. She was not impressed, but I learned something about a nearly-forgotten subject.

One way to regain control of our time is to start bundling an enjoyable activity that can be done in the midst of an unpleasant one. Many of us can safely enjoy a book on tape or some other type of audio book while we are driving somewhere.

In a slight variation, Pat and I made routine activities into a ritual. For example, each summer there is the six week Chamber Music Festival series in Saugatuck.

Some of the music I liked; others sounded like five cats having a full-volume spat while a train wreck took place in the background.

What made all of it much more fun was the ritual of learning about the music on the program and the composer, dressing early to attend so we could have a nice meal at home, walking the five blocks down to the venue and the concert itself. And then, walking back home to discuss it.

More than anything else, converting a concert into a package deal made it wonderful. We used our time wisely.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Celebrating 75 Years of Van Buren Youth Camp

Dear Editor:

This August 14–17, Van Buren Youth Camp is celebrating 75 years of creating lifelong memories, friendships, and leaders—and we'd love for you to join us.

Since 1950, VBYC has been a place where kids from across Van Buren, Kalamazoo, and Allegan counties—and from 23 other states—come to experience classic summer camp magic. Campers ages 6 to 18 grow with us, from Little Bears to Leadership Camp, many returning year after year, often across generations. Some become counselors or staff; others remain lifelong supporters and friends.

We're especially proud of our Youth Leadership Program—the longest-running of its kind in Michigan. But across the board, VBYC has always prioritized affordability, inclusion, personal growth, and joy. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our Camp Family—volunteers, donors, and alumni—we've kept camper fees low and we continue offering camperships for those who need financial help.

In a world that feels increasingly digital, disconnected, and overwhelming for young people, VBYC gives campers something rare: a full week without phones, screens, or social media. They hike, sing, play, talk face-to-face, and experience real community. And they choose it—two-thirds of this summer's campers are returning from previous years.

When major upgrades are needed, we turn to our community. In recent years we've raised funds for new cabins, facilities, and a much-needed commercial dishwasher. We just paid off the mortgage on our newest bathhouse, and now we're raising funds to pay for a beautiful new dock—essential to summer programming and long overdue.

As costs rise and infrastructure ages, we rely on our neighbors and supporters more than ever. VBYC is a nonprofit without a big parent organization—just a tight-knit, passionate Camp Family. And that's what's kept us going strong for 75 years.

Whether you're a former camper, a curious neighbor, or just someone who believes in kids, you're invited to join us August 14–17 for our 75th Anniversary Weekend. Relive old traditions, reconnect with camp friends, and maybe even live like a camper one more time.

Our Camp Fest fundraiser happens Saturday, August 16—a family-friendly event with beer and wine tasting for adults, and supervised activities for kids. Details and RSVP info are at vbyc.org.

Thank you to the thousands of people who have supported Van Buren Youth Camp since 1950. Here's to the next 75.

In the spirit of Camp,
John Tapper
Board President
Van Buren Youth Camp

Most voters approve Trump's job performance

Dear Editor,

Seldom do I ever respond to a rebuttal Letter to the Editor that is published in response to an earlier letter that I had submitted, but the letter published in the August 7 Flashes precipitates this exception.

I certainly won't bother to address the tired and fictitious claims against President Trump contained within the August 7 letter, as there is no need to rehash these tedious fabrications that have already been disproven and are simply without merit. The one exception will be in reference to the repugnant and clearly uniformed reference to a democracy and republic being the same. Such immature and simplistic interpretations of our founding principles is why liberals will never appreciate Americas exceptionalism. I realize one might have to search beyond Wikipedia, but a rudimentary study of our nation's founding will provide in no uncertain terms that it was our founders intention to create our republic and not a democracy. In describing a democracy, Benjamin Frankin stated "Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for dinner."

John Adams and James Madison both wrote how easy a democracy could be led by passions and factions leading to injustice. They were concerned that a democracy would abuse the rights of minorities and lead to the "tyranny of the majority" as our nation regrettably experienced under the Obama and Biden regimes. And Noah Webster emphasized that a republic should be a government of laws, not men, ensuring accountability and limiting the power of those in authority. In the simplest term, a democracy is where the majority rules while in a republic, the majority rules while respecting the rights of the minority. This conversation is the foundational difference between conservatives and liberals and no matter how the left will fraudulently spin things it will always come down to this fundamental principle. To state that the words republic and democracy are interchangeable is lazy and displays a total lack of knowledge of the creation of our nation.

As far as the absurd references to Jeffrey Epstein, he was arrested July 2019 and died August 2019 while Ghislaine Maxwell's trial did not conclude until December 2021. Roughly 11 months after President Trump's first term in office concluded. That being said, the Biden regime had four years to pursue the court process to release these files to the American public but never had any interest in pursuing this case and the new Democrats and media never cared.

But now all of a sudden, the Democrats insist that these files must be released to the public immediately and falsely insists that President Trump refuses to release these files. The fact is President Trump directed AG Pam Bondi to "produce any and all pertinent Grand Jury testimony in the Epstein case." Unfortunately, liberal U.S. District Judge Robin Rosenberg, an Obama appointee, has blocked this request. To insinuate that President Trump ever had any involvement with Epstein's illicit activities with no evidence is cowardly and small.

As of today, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has issued deposition subpoenas to Bill and Hillary Clinton, James Comey, Loretta Lynch, Eric Holder. Merrick Garland, Robert Mueller, William Barr, Jeff Sessions and Alberto Gonzales for testimony related to the Epstein case. In addition, a subpoena to the U.S. Department of Justice was issued for records related to Epstein. We'll see who refuses to participate and who claims their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. With the left's anticipated tantrum against Trump pertaining to Epstein it only displays how in reality, the left cares little for the truth in the Epstein case, as they only use these false allegations against President Trump until they come up with another baseless claim against him.

You see, the previous Democrat administrations had no concern for Jeffrey Epstein's activities, or sex trafficking until they thought they could somehow weaponize the issue against President Trump. But seeing as how Epstein and associates are tied to Bill Clinton's predilection for infidelity with anything that can fog a mirror, as well as ties to the Clinton Foundation and Hillary Clinton's failed 2008 presidential campaign, this should prove interesting.

Tom Homan's ICE has already rescued scores of the over 400,000 unaccounted for illegal unaccompanied immigrant minors nationwide from forced labor and sexual exploitation, in other words, slavery. Don't forget that the Democrats in New York, Illinois and California are attempting to legalize prostitution. Obviously, these progressives care little for the victimization of women or children as prostitution in any form only exploits and victimizes both groups.

As a personal aside, all this being said, had Jeffrey Epstein been convicted of the charges filed against him both he and Maxwell as well as anyone else convicted of sex trafficking, pimping and pandering should be executed. For those participating in the sexual exploitation of a child, extensive sentences without parole should be mandatory.

I do appreciate the submission of the 7/31/25 letter which only confirms what has been witnessed recently from the progressive liberals and only substantiates my earlier statements. Locally, nationally and at the state level we continually see the regurgitation of false narratives and the utterance of boldface lies against President Trump all with the willing support of the corporate news industry. But please continue to rant against our republic and the America First endeavors. The left seems blind to the fact that nearly nine months after our 2024 general elections the majority of American voters (real voters, registered U.S. citizens with a pulse) support President Trump and his administration's efforts.

Then there's the pesky fact that since the election, the left has hysterically blustered about how Donald Trump would destroy our economy by June. Here we are well into the second quarter and all economic indicators are looking fantastic. Jobs, personal investments, success with the tariffs and future foreign U.S. investment commitments are all experiencing an upswing. And the world once again recognizes the United States as the world leader for the first time since the Reagan administration. Now to add insult to injury for the left, President Trump's approval ratings continue to climb. While the approval ratings of the Democratic party, by Democrats, is at an all-time low, something in the area of a 17- 19% while the Republican tent continues to expand. The truth is the majority of American voters elected President Trump to accomplish exactly what is underway and he is just getting started.

John R. Young

THE COURIER LEADER
PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WILCOX NEWSPAPERS, LLC
PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 657-3072 • wilcoxnewspapers.com

Publisher - Mike Wilcox
Graphics- Liz LaValle
Reporter - Paul Garrod & James Windell
IT - Jordan Wilcox

PERIODICAL RATE POSTAGE
PAID AT PAW PAW, MI 49079-0129
Postmaster-Send address changes to: PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010

The Poulenc Trio performs in South Haven

By James Windell

In the 22 years they've been together, The Poulenc Trio has travelled to almost every state and all around the world garnering kudos everywhere they've appeared. However, they've never performed in South Haven.

That will be remedied on Friday, August 15, 2025, when the world-famous trio plays a concert at Peace Lutheran Church in South Haven.

Speaking from his home in Baltimore, Bryan Young, bassoonist for the trio, said they are looking forward to coming to South Haven. He said that when The Poulenc Trio plays in a city for the first time, they realize that people don't always have an awareness of what a trio composed of the oboe, the piano and the bassoon will sound like. "So, we like to do a very broad sampling of our repertoire," Young said.

Talking about the program in this concert, he said: "I should say that because we are one of the only double-reed ensembles, people are always surprised at what the music is. We're going to start with a piece by the great Russian composer Mikhail Glinka. It's called "Trio Pathetique." This is a piece that Glinka wrote when he was traveling abroad in Italy. A lot of times Glinka is known as the Father of Russian Music because he took folk melodies from the Russian tradition, but because he was in Italy he took beautiful Italian melodies and wrote a piece with very long, lyrical lines with an operatic tone."

Other compositions in the first half of the concert will be a series of songs that the group's namesake Francis Poulenc wrote. "A lot of people don't know him as a song writer," Young said, "but these are really beautiful pieces that we had arranged. All were written around the time of World War II and Poulenc was responding to the occupation of France and his feelings at the time."

The first half of the concert will end with a piece called "Explain Yourself!" "This is a piece we commissioned a few years ago from composer Viet Cuong. All I can say is that it has some surprising sounds in it. It's always a smash hit and people enjoy it."

Young said the second half of the concert will include audience favorites. They will play a Beethoven Trio and Rossini's "Fantasie on L'Italienne en Algieri."

The trio, besides Young on the bassoon, has Irina Kaplan Lande on piano and Aleh Remezau on oboe. Remezau has only been with the trio for two years, but Young said they are really happy that he is part of the trio. He says that Lande is the driving force behind The Poulenc Trio.

Young said he and Lande are based in Baltimore and both work at the Peabody Conservatory. After meeting, she suggested they form a group. "It was her idea to explore the repertoire for a trio with two double-reed instruments," Young said.

Asked if they had any doubts about a trio with a piano, an oboe and bassoon, Young gave a hearty laugh while saying, "We were full of doubts! We had no idea how we would go over. But we knew the music was great. What we learned was that every time we played people were surprised. 'I didn't know instruments could sound this way,' they usually say." Young added that perhaps they had an advantage because they were the first trio with this instrumentation.

Then, they had to decide what to call themselves. "We were trying to come up with a name when we started," Young recalls. "We were sitting around the kitchen table, and we had all sorts of names on the table." He mentioned a couple of names that they rejected.

"Then we thought that Poulenc's Trio for oboe, bassoon and piano was the piece that people always thinks about, why not start with a great name like that." They used that name and it has stuck.

The Poulenc Trio has a strong commitment to commissioning, performing and recording new works from living composers. Since its founding, the trio has greatly expanded the repertoire available for the oboe, bassoon and piano, and Young says they have commissioned 33 new works for the group. "We like to bring new music to life," Young said. "It's rewarding and I think it's all part of keeping our industry and our profession fresh."

Founded in 2010, the South Haven Performance Series is an all-volunteer community-based organization committed to providing a rich mixture of musical arts for area residents and visitors. Most concerts are held during the summer months with an additional holiday concert presented in December.

The Poulenc Trio will perform at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 429 Michigan Ave., South Haven. Admission is $15 and students are always admitted free. Tickets are sold on the evening of the concert.

For more information, visit the South Haven Performance Series website at https://southhavenperformanceseries.org/

Fowl Play! Illegal cockfighting ring discovered in Hopkins

Footage from Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK), shows a dozen men standing around a wheelbarrow of chickens at an illegal cockfight in Hopkins.

Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

Anyone who's ever been to Hopkins knows that the sounds of barnyard animals are not an auditory anomaly. Due to the area's strong dairy farming industry, cows can be heard all day long.

However, on Saturday, July 26, residents were startled by a different type of barnyard crowing – the sound of injured roosters in distress. A sound that was later attributed to an illegal cockfighting ring, held at 2534 23rd Street, just south of Hopkins.

Cockfighting is a blood sport where two gamecocks, or roosters, are forced to fight to the death for the entertainment and gambling of spectators. The birds are typically drugged for aggression, weighted, and outfitted with bladed weapons. It's outlawed in all 50 states, but is still viewed by some groups as part of their cultural heritage and a deeply rooted tradition.

Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) and Animal Wellness Action are two activist groups pushing for the end of cockfighting nationwide. According to Wayne Pacelle, president of Animal Wellness Action, both groups operate complex networks of informants who alert them of such events and employ undercover drone surveillance and online research of the illegal operations.

Steve Hindi, founder and president of SHARK, said that the Hopkins tip came through his group's anonymous hotline.

After receiving the tip, SHARK quickly sent a drone up in the air, capturing footage that they released on their Facebook page. The video shows criminals bringing live birds in for the fight, then bringing the dead birds out, and numerous live birds being violently handled and thrown into a wheelbarrow with dying birds, while getting savagely attacked and mutilated with various instruments.

Both groups also contacted the Allegan County Sheriff's office multiple times that day, but were told that "they didn't have enough officers to respond," and have known about the "illegal cockfighting pit for a couple weeks now."

This response enraged Hindi and Pacelle. Hindi questioned why they hadn't already raided the cockfight and said that "they should have brought officers in from other agencies if they needed extra manpower."

When asked for comment by the Detroit Free Press, Undersheriff Michael Larson acknowledged that "the initial response was not what we had hoped for," but that the police response was " not malicious or intentionally negligent."

Cockfighting is a felony in Michigan that can carry up to four years in prison.

The Sheriff's Office is currently working on a thorough investigation, which will be turned over to the prosecuting attorney once completed.

In an interview with WWMT News Channel 3, Hindi stated that he personally hopes anyone involved with this is "imprisoned for a very long time because they are a cancer to any society that they're part of. They need some serious, serious, long-term mental counseling."

He and Pacelle are urging residents to call upon Prosecuting Attorney Villar and Sheriff Baker to work together immediately to investigate, identify, and charge anyone who participated in these crimes.

OBITUARIES

Amy Louise Jacobs

Amy Louise Jacobs, 92, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025, at her home in Paw Paw. She was born Sept. 14, 1932, in Deerfield, Ohio, the daughter of Thomas Elliott Sr. and Ruth (Aeglic) Elliott.

Amy was a true farm girl. She lived and worked on her property up until the last few months of her life. She was not a woman who stayed still, she was extremely active and never let the grass grow under her feet. Amy enjoyed baseball, reading and spending time with her beloved family. Amy was the true matriarch of the Jacobs family. She was proud to share a birthday with her identical twin great-grandchildren, who were born on her 81st birthday! She loved being around people and never met a stranger. Her kindness and caring soul will be deeply missed.

She is survived by her sons, Edward (Gerri K.) Jacobs, Gary (Shannon) Jacobs and Dale (Sheila) Jacobs; daughter, Donna (Troy) Rozema; grandchildren, Kelli (Adam) Bielang, Matthew Paddock, Brooke Jacobs, Amy (Andrew) Bolkcom, Jordan Jacobs, Mitchell (Dionna) Jacobs; great-grandchildren, Cora Marsh, Collins Marsh, Monroe Bielang, William Bolkcom, Miles Bolkcom, Lucas Bolkcom and Luna Jacobs.

Amy was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Clair Jacobs; son, Gene Jacobs and five siblings.

Family and friends were invited to visit on Thursday, Aug. 7, at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. A funeral service was held Friday, Aug. 8, at the funeral home with the Rev. Buddy Turner officiating. Amy was laid to rest at Wildey Cemetery immediately following the service.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Paw Paw District Library, 609 W. Michigan Ave, Paw Paw, MI, 49079 or to Our Daily Bread Ministries, P.O. Box 2222 Grand Rapids, MI, 49501-2222.

Dr. Phillip Graydon Reinoehl

Dr. Philip Graydon Reinoehl, peacefully went to be with his Lord and Savior on July 30, 2025. He was a beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, brother and doctor. He was born on Oct. 30, 1940, the son of Richard Reinoehl and Josephine (Burger) Reinoehl in South Bend, IN.

He was a proud alumnus of Old Riley High School and went on to attend Manchester College for his undergrad. He continued his education at the Indiana University School of Medicine where he obtained his PhD. He then completed his internship at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, MI.

On June 8, 1968, Grady married the love of his life, Cheryl Schelb. After three months of marriage, they moved to India where they participated in missionary work and where they welcomed their first child, Tim. Two years later, they moved back to Michigan. Upon their return, he was called to Paw Paw to join the medical practice with Dr. Millard. After decades of service to his community and serving as the medical examiner for Van Buren County, he retired at age 70.

Grady had several passions besides being a great doctor. He loved birds and butterflies and spent his free time visiting butterfly conservatories and watching the birds while camping and traveling. A frequent destination was Mackinac Island. Grady also cherished his acreage in Paw Paw. Over the years, he planted thousands of trees on his property. He also kept vegetable and flower gardens.

The Civil War was of great interest to Grady, and he was a passionate historian and researcher, he never stopped learning. He took many trips to visit historical Civil War sites. His style also made him stand out at events. Grady always had on a bow tie and kept an extensive collection, one (or multiple) for each occasion! Music was also a big part of his life. He loved to sing, spending many years in the Paw Paw United Methodist Church Choir as well as in the Paw Paw Community Choir. He also loved to play instruments and had a remarkable talent for playing a variety of them.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Cheryl Reinoehl; son, Timothy (Kseniya) Reinoehl; daughters, Wendy (Dennis) Van Tassell and Sarah (Martin) Reinoehl-Tuttle; grandchildren, Miranda Owens, Emily (Michael) Davis, Gabriel Reinoehl, Larissa Reinoehl, Jonathan Reinoehl, Alexis Van Tassell, Chloe Van Tassell and Jacob Van Tassell; brother, C. Truman (Retta) Reinoehl, and sister, Sharon (late Harry) Hensley.

Grady was preceded in death by his parents.

His service, kind soul and caring heart will be forever missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him and all who had the opportunity to be taken care of by Dr. Reinoehl.

Family and friends are invited to visit on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 3 to 4 p.m. at Paw Paw United Methodist Church, 420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. with Pastor Dan Phillips officiating.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

Joan Nancy Spiech

Joan Nancy Spiech, 76, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully on July 24, 2025. She was born on March 4, 1949, the beloved daughter of the late Walter and Marjorie (Whyment) Spiech.

Joan is survived by her brothers Walter (Julie) Spiech, James Spiech, and Steve (Robin) Spiech, and her sister, Kathy Houtman.

She was preceded in death by her brother-in-law, David Houtman. She will be fondly remembered by her extended family and friends.

She enjoyed her time independently living at Maple Lake Senior Living, where she was a friendly and familiar face at bingo nights and other community events. She had a deep love for the magic of Disney and treasured her trips to Disney World. Another favorite destination was Chicago, where she loved taking the train and visiting the American Girl store - a special part of her life reflected in her thoughtfully assembled collection of American Girl dolls and accessories.

Joan's dog, Mindy, was her constant companion, and she took pride in caring for her and enjoying their daily walks together. One of Joan's greatest joys was Christmas - so much so that she celebrated it all year long. Her home sparkled with three beautifully decorated Christmas trees that stayed up regardless of the season, and she delighted in anything festive, from ornaments to holiday music and movies. She especially looked forward to attending the annual Christmas parade, a tradition that brought her great joy and captured her love of holiday spirit.

Joan also celebrated the fall season each year with a visit to pick out the perfect pumpkin - something she never missed. She also enjoyed watching the occasional deer or bird outside her window, but it was her love for her siblings and the little joys in life that defined her life.

Joan's warmth, kindness, and joyful spirit will be deeply missed. A private family service will be held.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

A-1 MOBILE ROOF-OVER SYSTEMS INC.

QUALITY ROOF-OVER FOR MOBILE HOMES

MOBILE OR DOUBLE-WIDE ALUMINUM ROOF-OVER

We all know how crazy the world economy has become. Businesses do not know day to day what material prices will be.

To protect our customers and our business, A-1 Mobile purchased and stored two full semi loads of aluminum coil stock – meaning you can have your new mobile home roof with no price increase.

Insulation

Thick Polystyrene Foam
keeps homes warmer in the winter
and cooler in the summer
A-1 Mobile cannot predict your heating cost.
However, we do guarantee at least
32 per cent less fuel burned

Better Business Bureau A+ Rating

Call for free estimate

269-628-4771

SPORTS

Mattawan pitcher looking forward to 2026

Maxx VanAntwerp was a junior pitcher for Mattawan.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Maxx VanAntwerp will look forward to his senior season of Mattawan baseball.

He had an outstanding junior season.

"We had a fun year," he said. "We made it to the regional finals. I would say pitching was definitely our strongest strength."

VanAntwerp was No. 2 as a lefthander on Mattawan's pitching staff.

He had a 4-1 record in 41 innings. His earned run average was 1.76 ERA. His most memorable pitching performance came against Lowell in the regional semi-finals which Mattawan won.

"They got on us early but we came back and got up 3-1 and then shut them down," VanAntwerp recalled. "Our pitching and hitting was key there."

As a pitcher, "My control,"as a key factor VanAntwerp said.

It was his first full year on varsity. He focused "on my location and working on my movement," VanAntwerp said.

He didn't bat too much but did have some hits including a single against Portage Central.

"You need to work the count," VanAntwerp said. He's been a pitcher his whole life and keeps improving.

As for 2026 "our pitching will be even better. We need to hit," VanAntwerp said. He played summer baseball and focused on keeping his arm healthy.

South Haven football eyes winning record

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven football coach Mark Eddy recalls his team was 5-5 and in the playoffs in 2024, his son Elijah's senior year. The Rams had a tough loss to Constantine.

Here were some key graduates:

Elijah Eddy "was excellent high football player," Mark Eddy said.

Cade Hahn - "great leader and kid."

Mathis Bray - "great kid and tight end."

Mason Parks - "smooth."

Ethan Hodge - "quiet hard worker."

Key players this year will be:

Quin Hayes - Sr Rb- "surprisingly solid season."

Jacob Bosma Sr Rb - "will be a driving force."

Bryan Bevevino - SR - C - "great leader, work ethic."

Grayson Knox SR- R- "energetic, leader."

Rylan Jenks - Jr - Q - "has led with his effort and dedication."

Rowan Fonseca - Jr DB - "anchors the defense."

Mark Harell - St - OL - "will lead the rushing attack."

"I expect that we will compete because the kids care," Eddy said. We expect to compete for the league and a playoff run."

"Their brotherhood" will be a team strength, Eddy said.

"Pushing past their perceived limitations," is what the team needs to work on."

As for the conference, "the league is solid. The road goes through United. We're

ready to work and have fun."

Eddy has coached the team six years. He said "watching our program grow and earn respect," is what he enjoys. "Building a brotherhood with the young men I coach and with my colleagues.

"Coach has become more professional in my opinion. People think that you have to be harsh on kids, but that often backfires."

Lawrence cheer continues to have success

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Melissa Pyle is head coach for sideline cheer at Lauren and recalls major highlights from a year ago.

"Tripling the number of cheerleaders was a highlight/record/top moment of the season." Pyle said. "Senior captain Kennedi Klock and junior captain Evie Mead led the team to growth and success with their combined years of skills and practice.

"Kennedi will be deeply missed this season. She began her cheer career in Rocket Cheer. Though she is attending Ferris State University this fall, she will help when she can. Without her, this team may not have had the same high standards and growth.

For this season, "senior captain Evie Mead and junior captain Sarah Carlisle are my go to cheerleaders this season," Pyle said. "I expect them to hold their teammates accountable and set a great example. We have a young team and these two will set them up for success for years to come.

"As this is my second season coaching this team, we hope to grow on a different level. The standards will be higher, the skills will be harder, and we still hope to still grow in number as well. The strength of this team is that there is a solid foundation to build on from last season. For this reason we will be more refined than before.

"We need to spend time on strength and conditioning to help our stunting and tumbling."

South Haven three-sport athlete looking forward to great season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Max Verseput is a junior going into his senior season at South Haven.

But his junior baseball season is one he'll have good memories about for a long time. It was his third varsity season.

"I feel we had a good standout season," he said. "I feel like everything clicked this year. We had good offense and good teaching which really helps make defense easier."

He was a pitcher and third baseman for South Haven. As a pitcher, "I tried to throw a changeup, fastball and a curveball, that was about it. My most memorable performance was the Allegan game that clinch the conference championship.

"The predistrict loss to Holland Christian was also very memorable even though it wasn't as good as a feeling."

The conference championship was the team's first in 13 years.

At third base "I feel like I did well but I also feel I could have improved a little bit." Verseput said. "I hope to this offseason."

The team "had good attitudes," he said. "I feel there was never a practice where everything was off. We were all happy. We wanted to be there and we had a lot of fun."

Verseput had a .335 batting average. I had a game tying double against Hamilton in a tournament. We lost the game but it was exciting at the moment.

"It's all mental. You can't think too much about it or otherwise you'll end up striking out or grounding out."

A shortstop and pitcher graduated from South Haven.

"Other than that I feel we had a lot of good upcoming seniors who will keep it rolling. We'll have a good year next year."

Verseput also plays tennis and basketball.

Tennis starts practices on Aug. 11. "It's a lot of fun," Verseput said. "I just do it for fun. I'm playing No. 1 singles this year. I was No. 2 last year. I have to practice a lot this summer. Get out and grind. I have a good serve when I get my first one."

Verseput is 6-foot-6 and plays center in basketball. He played a lot of it over the summer.

Bloomingdale coach happy with progress

By John Raffel
Corresponent

BLOOMINGDALE — Bloomingdale football coach Jason Hayes has been coach four years and has seen progress.

"In 2023, we won our first game in three years," Hayes said. "In 2024 we didn't field a varsity football team, but our JV team finished with a 5-4 record, which was the most wins for a Bloomingdale football team since 2012. This year we plan to move back to Varsity.

"I've also coached football at Comstock High School, Kalamazoo College, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Western Michigan University. I've coached wrestling at Comstock High School, where we won 2 conference championships, and a district title.

What do you enjoy most about coaching?

"I enjoy working with kids and celebrating their success," Hayes said. "I love seeing growth and making an impact on our kids.

I played football for 10 years in Allegan. I was also fortunate

enough to be part of Allegan's 2007 State Champion wrestling

team.

"This is my 19th year coaching football. Elements of the game

have changed, and I've certainly grown through the years, but

coaching is coaching. We try to share our knowledge and

experience with the next generation and put them in positions to

be successful."

South Haven grad had bright career

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Eli Eddy graduated at South Haven in the spring and left on a memorable note.

"I played two years of varsity but I've probably been playing baseball around 10 years," Eddy said. "This year we have a few team bonding opportunities that brought us together. But it was also big winning conference. That was big thing for us.

"We were always ready to play. Even if we were down we just kept playing. Our ace pitcher was good and our defense backed him up. Our hitting was timely."

A win over Allegan to clinch conference was a huge moment."

Eddy played second base and shortstop and did some pitching.

"I had a good glove, good range," he said. "I read the ball."

As a pitcher, location was a key for Eddy. "A big save was the second game against Watervliet which we needed to win because we lost the first one. I threw 23 pitches and got a lot of people out."

He was happy with his hitting.

"I gained a little power. I led off most of the year and tried to get us gong pretty early."

He hit above .400 for the season.

Eddy played football and basketball. He was all-conference in football and all-conference all district and academic all-state in baseball."

He played cornerback in football.

Eddy is going to Olivet to play footballs as wide receiver and was working out during the summer to get ready.

Bloomingdale football hopes to be contender

By John Raffel

BLOOMINGDALE — Bloomingdale football coach Jason Hayes is putting a varsity football team back on the field after a year's absence.

"We didn't field a varsity team due to low upperclassmen numbers. Our JV team went 5-4 and was competitively in every game," Hayes said.

Key players, with comments from Hayes, are as follows:

Macyn Bishop: QB/DB (So) "Macyn will look to build off a strong freshman year on both sides of the ball. I expect him to become a bigger part of our offense both as a passer and ball carrier."

Collin Lewis: TE/DL (So) "Collin is moving to TE this year after being one of our better offensive linemen in 2024. I still expect him to be one of our better run blockers, but will add a threat of receiving passes."

Abel Gonzalez: OL/DL (So) "Abel Gonzalez is the strongest player in the conference. I expect him to play very physically on both sides of the ball.

Patrick Robinson: RB/LB (Sr) "Patrick Robinson will be a first team all conference running back and/or linebacker. He's athletic, strong and competitive. He has a good mind for the game and will outwork his opponents."

Maverick Atkinson: RB/DB (So) "Maverick is new to the game of football, but will be the fastest player on our team. He's tough and athletic and will cause a lot of problems for our opponents."

Hayes is optimistic.

"I expect to get better everyday. We're going to keep our schemes simple and focus on fundamentals and a strong team culture," he said. "We are committed to running the ball and playing great defense.We're young. We just need more time on the field.

"Marcellus is probably the league favorite going into the season. They have been consistently tough the past few years. Our JV team lost a close one to them week 2 last year. I expect the battle for the. conference title will be between Marcellus and Bloomingdale."

LIKE US ON

FOLLOW US TO GET MORE NEWS

Avink, McCowen & Secord Funeral Homes
Compassion & Service When it's Needed Most
Avink McCowen Secord Funeral Homes and Cremation Society
Vicksburg (269) 649-1697 Manager Steve McCowen
Schoolcraft (269) 679-5622 Manager Zach Siple
Portage (269) 344-5600 Manager Chris Keyes
Plainwell (269) 685-5881 Manager Tim Secord
www.amsfuneralhomes.com

FOUNE WELL DRILLING INC.
Since 1970
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - IRRIGATION
WELL DRILLING & REPAIR
4" - 8" Wells
Specializing in 5" PVC Wells
Member of Michigan and National Ground Water Association
GROUND WATER PROFESSIONALS
628-2700
33215 M-43 • Paw Paw
STATE LICENSE #80-2159

NOTICE - PUBLIC LAND AUCTION

The Van Buren County Treasurer will offer tax-reverted real estate at public auction online at **www.tax-sale.info.**

The first auction will be held on **August 27th, 2025 from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT.** Bids can also be placed up to 30 days in advance on the website. Assistance is available for those without computer or internet access.

Incomplete or voided sales from the August 27th, 2025 auction, if any, will be re-offered on September 26th, 2025 from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT.

Unsold tax reverted real estate from either of the previous auctions, if any, will be re- offered on October 31st, 2025 in a sealed- bid auction. All bids must be placed by 7:00 pm EDT for this final sealed-bid auction.

Answers to common questions about the auction process and additional information can be found at **www.tax-sale.info/faq**

For more information and to view a list of the properties being offered, please visit **www.tax-sale.info** or call 1-800-259-7470.

Auction listings may also be available at the County Treasurer's office.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PLACE AN AD CALL (269) 657-3072 OR 657-5080 BEFORE MONDAY AT 5PM

OFFICE: 269-375-1425
WESTON SEPTIC, LLC
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
• Septic Tank Pumping • Install Risers
NOW HIRING!
Linda & Russ Weston, Owners

Tony's LAWN CARE LLC
"Highest Quality at the Lowest Guaranteed Price"
Free Estimates Commercial & Residential
269-539-1021
CALL or TEXT

Double M Construction
Serving Southwest Michigan and surrounding areas
Metal Roofing
Complete Pole Barn Packages
Free Estimates
(269) 762-9920
56504 Butcher Road, Lawrence, MI 49064

mckenziemi.com 269-657-2548
MCKENZIE INSURANCE
Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS
Insurance for what matters most to you, since 1945.

EARL SANDERS & SON WELL DRILLING INC.
Since 1943
Trouble with your water well?
Low Pressure?
Smelly Water?
No Water?
269-806-6730
Email: earlsandersinc@hotmail.com

When protecting your Auto, Home and Life, the
EXPERIENCE MATTERS.
Call Derek Lietzau today!
(269) 655-1814
408 W. Michigan Ave. Paw Paw
DerekInsGroup.com
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE A Company

HOME SERVICES INSTALL & REPAIR
JESI WALLACE
(269) 716-6131
Call for your free estimate today!
Paw Paw, Michigan, & Surrounding Areas
homeservicesinstall.com
- Home Maintenance
- Interior & Exterior Repairs
- Tile & Flooring
- Painting
- Lighting

Jim's Small Engine
43356 CR 653 Paw Paw MI 49079
Credit Cards Accepted
Chinsaws, mowers, snowblowers pressure washers, generators, etc.
269-674-9403
Larz Boley
Owner
LLC

Jaqua
SOUTH HAVEN'S TOP REAL ESTATE BROKER, 12 YEARS IN A ROW!
YOUR LAKESHORE REAL ESTATE EXPERT
Amy O'Sullivan
Associate Broker
AS SEEN ON HGTV
www.SoldByAmyO.com
513 Broadway St
South Haven, MI 49090
C.269.214.1257 | aosullivan@jaquarealtors.com

WE CAN DO IT ALL!!
NO JOB TOO BIG • NO JOB TOO SMALL
Interior/ Exterior Remodels Kitchens Framing Drywall Flooring Baths
HB Handyman Services
269-599-8532
Soffit/ Facia Pressure Washing Roofing Siding Decks etc.
Owner Chris Hardenbrook
Chardenbrook82@gmail.com
Residential/Commercial Free Estimates!!

Plain Jane's ANTIQUES
JANE KESTELOOT
SEEJANESHOP@YAHOO.COM
269•929•6162
• Vintage • Rustic Decor • Garden • Jewelry • Furniture
• Gift & Trinkets • Primitives • Antiquities • Books • Signs & Advertising
DOWNTOWN PAW PAW
229 E. Michigan Ave • Paw Paw, MI 49079

THE SHED EVENT RENTAL
TENT RENTAL, TABLES, CHAIRS & MORE
SHEDEVENTRENTAL.COM
INSTAGRAM @ SHEDEVENT
269-550-7945

WATERPROOFING & CONTRACTORS RJ
Wet Basement?
• Internal/External Drain Tile Systems
• Water Seepage - Structural Wall & Floor Cracks
• Damp Wet Crawl Spaces
• Bowed & Cracked Walls
• Sump Pump/Emergency Backup System
• Mold Removal & Drywall Repair
24 Hour Emergency Service
Senior Discounts
269-337-7660
EXPERIENCED IN ALL METHODS OF BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

BATES HOME REMODELING
Brent Bates
Bates5601@gmail.com
269-350-3350
Interior Trim
Tuck Pointing
Aluminum Trim
Pre-Hung Doors
Bee Removal
Carpentry
Tile Installed
Concrete Work
Deck Specialist

WALT & MARIE'S COUNTRY MARKET
CATERING & MORE!
• DINE IN • TAKE OUT • PARTY PLATTERS • BUFFET STYLE CATERING •
RENT OUR CAFE FOR YOUR PRIVATE EVENT FOR ONLY $50/HR
• BUSINESS MEETINGS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES • BABY SHOWERS • WEDDINGS • & MORE!
WALT & MARIE'S COUNTRY MARKET
44947 W RED ARROW HWY
PAW PAW, MI
269-657-7570

OLíVE CART
Curating Noteworthy Flavors
oliveoilstoremichigan.com
424 PHOENIX ST
SOUTH HAVEN, MI
(269) 637-4754
421 STATE ST
ST. JOSEPH, MI
(269) 281-0120

BRINKER BROTHERS OUTDOOR LIVING
CUSTOMIZE YOUR OUTDOOR LIVING
269-806-4141
SERVICES
Azenco Pergolas
MagnaTrack Motorized Screens
Outdoor Kitchens
Decks & Railings
Outdoor Lighting
Endless Outdoor Features
Check out our website to see everything we offer
brinkerbrothersoutdoorliving.com

CAR CONNECTION
AUTO BODY AND SALES
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1983
Auto Body • Collision Repair • Insurance Work
Paint • Minor rust repair • Auto sales
Hours of operation • Mon - Fri; 9am to 5pm
22671 Red Arrow Hwy.,Mattawan, MI 49071
269-668-2379 • carconn.abs@gmail.com

J&S TREE SERVICES LLC
30 years in business
Free Estimates
Specialize in storm damage
Tree Removal • Tree Trimming
Stump Grinding
269-207-1682
Gobles, MI

Coastal Clean
housekeeping • home watch • handyman
Family Owned & Serving Southwest Michigan Since 2003
We're in your neighborhood!
• Residential cleaning
• Home Watch Services
• Commercial Cleaning
• Handyman Services
269-639-1515 • coastalclean.net

ROOFING & CONTRACTING
BBB
Protecting SW Michigan Properties For Over 20 Years!
ROOFING | SIDING | GUTTERS
269-359-ROOF ▪ aecroof.com ▪ Paw Paw, MI

COUNTY LINE NURSERIES SINCE 1942
DESIGN AND INSTALL LOCAL PLANT MATERIALS GROWN AT OUR OWN NURSERY
outdoor spaces, paver walks, pergolas
large variety of locally grown trees
decorative shrubs and greenery
new industry leading products
irrigation systems
outdoor kitchens
CALL MIKE AT 269.621.4543
www.CountyLineNurseries.net
Like us on Facebook.
Competitive pricing, cutting out the middleman.
Special discounts for Veterans and Seniors.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES
We Design to fit your lifestyle.
269-639-9000
www.LandscapeDS.com
A Bakker Family Business since 1968
Lawn Fertilization and Weed Control
Your Local Lawn & Landscape Experts

BOB TOLSMA PLUMBING
Bob Tolsma • 4215 Lincoln Rd., Holland, MI 49423
Office (616)836-1197 • bob@tolsmaplumbing.com
• New Constrution
• Remodels Insured
• Water heaters
• Water Softeners
• Water & Sewer Hookups
• 24 HR Emergency

LET ME FILL YOUR POOL
letmefillyourpool.net
FRITZ FARM TRANSPORT LLC
269-427-5039
BANGOR, MI 49013
Clean Water Call For Rates
Allegan, Bangor, Bloomingdale, Coloma, Covert, Gobles, Hartford, Lawrence, Lawton, Kalamazoo, Mattawan, Oshtemo, Paw Paw, Portage, South Haven, Stevensville, St Joseph, Watervliet and surrounding communities

Your Local Market Expert
CENTURY 21 Affiliated
25 Years of Real Estate Excellence.
RYAN SERVATIUS
BROKER
Century 21 Affiliated SoHa
253 Center Street
South Haven, MI 49090
EMAIL: INFO@CALLRYAN.COM
CALL OR TEXT: 269.252.7926
WEBSITE: CALLRYAN.COM
Recoginized as Areas Most Awarded Broker

Rent a Water Softener for $35/mo.
Add an RO for only $5/mo more.
* Call for details
Gordon WATER SYSTEMS
269-382-0068

SKP DESIGN STUDIO + SHOWROOM
Interior Design
110 W. Allegan St.
(M-89) Otsego, MI
269.377.6645
www.skpdesign.com
Sondra@skpdesign.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Michigan Probate Court
County of Van Buren
Publication of Notice of Hearing
THE ROBERT HENRY LEEDY AND CANDACE MARIE LEEDY TRUST DATED NOVEMBER 8, 2011
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert Henry Leedy, who lived at 28682 37 th Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079, died April 11, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent and the Robert Henry Leedy and Candace
Marie Leedy Trust, dated November 8, 2011, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to:
Michael Stamm, named Trustee of the Robert Henry Leedy and Candace Marie Leedy Trust, dated November 8, 2011, as
amended, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

August 7,2025

Attorney
Willis Law
Davis C. Martin, J.D. P84717
491 W. South St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 492-1040
Petitioner
Michael Stamm, Trustee
28122 37th Street
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 532-4070

State of Michigan Probate Court
County of Van Buren
Publication of Notice of Hearing
Case No. 2025-1114-DE
In the matter of STEVEN RAY GILLESPIE
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including:
Sean R. Gillespie
whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
Take Notice: A hearing will be held on **August 27,2025 at 2:00p.m. at Van Buren County Probate Court, 212 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI** before Judge **Susan Metzger P62867** for the following purpose:
Petition for Pobate and/or Appointment of personal Representative

August 7,2025

Attorney
William B. Millard P39054
211 E. Water Street, Ste. 401
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
269-343-2106
Petitioner
Tonia J. Coburn
736 East Hickory Road
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
269-365-8985

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1107-DE
Estate of RICHARD NORMAN STOLL
Date of Birth: August 20, 1946
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Richard Norman Stoll, died August 4, 2024 (8/4/2025)
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Sandra E. Stoll personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 31,2025

Attorney

Personal Representative
Sandra E. Stoll
59478 46th St., Lawrence, MI 49064
269-674-8522
269-367-8064

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1089-DE
Estate of CAROLE ELLEN HODGMEN
Date of Birth: May 22,1944
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Carole Ellen Hodgmen, died March 19,2025 (03/19/2025)
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Donald J. Hodgman personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

August 1,2025

Attorney
James L. Moore P29807
4860 Broaadmoor Ave. SE
Grand Rapaids, MI 49512
616-345-2900
Personal Representative
Donald J. Hodgman
357 Pearl Street
South Haven, MI 49090
269-214-6416

Van Buren; Mtgr: Steven P Koenig; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 7/31/2025; Atty File #: 20-000386-2; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on August 28, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Steven P. Koenig, AKA Steven Koenig, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: June 1, 2004 Recorded on June 9, 2004, Liber 1415, on Page 570, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-3 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Forty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Eight and 45/100 Dollars ($40,268.45) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Commencing at a point found by starting at the Northwest corner of Section 28, Town 4 South, Range 13 West. Thence Easterly on the Section line 99 rods, thence South parallel with the West line of said Section 2814 feet, thence South 33 degrees 48` West 356 feet to the point of beginning of this description, thence continuing South 33 degrees 48` West 60 feet, thence South 52 degrees 8` East to Cedar Lake, thence Northeasterly along said Lake to a point which is South 51 degrees 52` East from said point of beginning, thence North 51 degrees 52` West to said point of beginning. Also, a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress in common with others beginning at a point found by commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 28, Town 4 South, Range 13 West; thence Easterly on the North line of said Section, 99 rods; thence South parallel with the West line of said Section, 2814 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 33 degrees 48` West 536 feet; thence North 52 degrees 34` West 33.07 feet; thence North 33 degrees 48` East 464.57 feet; thence North parallel with the West line of said Section to the centerline of Shaw Road; thence Easterly along said centerline to a point 99 rods Easterly of the West line of said Section 28; thence South to said point of beginning. Commonly known as 29383 Shaw Rd, Lawton, MI 49065 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-3 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1568194

(07-31)(08-21)

Van Buren; Mtgr: Linda Smith; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 8/7/2025; Atty File #: 378790F03; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 11, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Linda Smith, a single woman
Original Mortgagee: ABN AMRO Mortgage Group, Inc.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Loans Structured Transaction Trust, Series 2021-2
Date of Mortgage: January 12, 2001
Date of Mortgage Recording: January 17, 2001
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $88,994.65
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Bloomingdale, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing 93 rods 15 feet North of the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 33, Town 1 South, Range 14 West, according to the Government Survey thereof; Thence North 30 rods 5 feet; Thence Easterly to the North and South One Eighth line of said Southeast Quarter; Thence South on same 30 rods 5 feet; Thence Westerly to beginning
Common street address (if any): 22501 41st St, Bloomingdale, MI 49026-9759
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 7, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1568734
(08-07)(08-28)

Van Buren; Mtgr: RON CRAFT; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 8/7/2025; Atty File #: 25-002098-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 04, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): RON CRAFT and SUZANNE BURROWS-CRAFT, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 28, 2004 Recorded on May 11, 2004, Liber 1413, on Page 644, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-6 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Seven and 41/100 Dollars ($50,567.41) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: BEGINNING ON THE NORTH LINE OF CASS STREET AT A POINT 465.00 FEET EAST OF THE WEST SECTION LINE; THENCE WEST, 102.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH, 86.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY PARALLEL WITH MONROE STREET, 112.20 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY TO BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF BLOCK 8, MONROE`S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF BANGOR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 17, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as 108 E Cass St, Bangor, MI 49013 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-6 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1568789
(08-07)(08-28)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Michael Mascarello; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 8/14/2025; Atty File #: 456499F09; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Michael Mascarello, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as trustee for Securitized Asset Backed Receivables LLC Trust 2007-BR4, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-BR4
Date of Mortgage: January 26, 2007
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 12, 2007
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $68,226.43
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Lawton, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 4, Willow Beach, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats on Page 25, Van Buren County, Michigan Register of Deed Records.
Common street address (if any): 94963 Lakeview Ct, Lawton, MI 49065-9205
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 14, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1569126

(08-14)(09-04

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: MTCT46 LLC; Atty: KREIS ENDERLE - KALAMAZOO - KREIS ENDERLE - KALAMAZOO; 1st Pub: 8/21/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF LIEN AGAINST CONDOMINIUM UNIT IN OLD HARBOR VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the certain Lien Against Condominium Unit in Old Harbor Village Condominium ("Lien") will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises (as defined below) at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the Lien may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the premises. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than ninety (90) days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Lien at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Old Harbor Village Condominium Association recorded the aforementioned Lien, dated December 9, 2024, against the premises owned by MTCT46 LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, which address is 515 Williams Street, South Haven, Michigan 49090 ("Owner"), which premises are a Unit in the Old Harbor Village Condominium. The Lien was recorded on December 9, 2024, in the Van Buren County Register of Deeds, at Liber 1772, Page 974. As of August 21, 2025, the amount claimed to be due under the Lien is the sum of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Six and 70/100 Dollars ($9,376.70), including interest and attorney fees. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue and which are permitted under Michigan law. Under the power of sale contained in the Condominium Bylaws and under Section 108 of the Michigan Condominium Act, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Lien will be foreclosed by sale of the premises at public sale to the highest bidder at the Van Buren County Courthouse, which address is 212 East Paw Paw Street, 2nd Floor, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, and which is the place of the holding of the Circuit Court for Van Buren County, State of Michigan, on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. The premises subject to the Lien is situated in the City of South Haven, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan and legally described as follows: Unit 13, Old Harbor Village Condominium, a Condominium according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 813, Page 616, as amended, in the Office of the Van Buren County Register of Deeds, and designated as Van Buren County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 17, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed, and amendments thereto, and described in Act 59 of Public Acts of 1978 as amended. Parcel Address: 515 Williams Street, Unit 13, South Haven, Michigan 49090 Parcel Tax ID: 80-53-775-006-30 If the premises is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless the premises is abandoned, in which case the redemption period is one (1) month. If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the Owner and any other person liable on the Lien will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the foreclosure sale or to the Lien holder for damaging the premises during the redemption period. Dated: August 21, 2025 LIEN HOLDER: Old Harbor Village Condominium Association 515 Williams Street, P.O. Box 46 South Haven, Michigan 49090 Attorneys for the Old Harbor Village Condominium Association: Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, P.C. Attention: Jeffrey D. Swenarton 750 Trade Centre Way, Suite 250 Portage, Michigan 49002 (269) 324-3000

(08-21)(09-11)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Joan Lewis; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 8/14/2025; Atty File #: 525284F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Jean G. Murphy aka Jean Murphy and Joan Lewis, as joint tenants with full rights of survivorship and not as tenants in common
Original Mortgagee: New Century Mortgage Corporation
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as successor by merger to Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association, as Trustee for the registered holders of the Merrill Lynch Mortgage Investors, Inc., Mortgage Loan Asset Backed Certificates Series 2002-NC1
Date of Mortgage: March 1, 2002
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 17, 2002
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $50,308.06
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 24, Block 11 of Ravinia Park Addition to the City of South Haven, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3, Page 58.
Common street address (if any): 529 Elkenburg St, South Haven, MI 49090-1906
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 14, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1569436

(08-14)(09-04)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Blaire Phillips; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 8/14/2025; Atty File #: 25-010316; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on SEPTEMBER 11, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Blaire Phillips, an unmarried woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Pacor Mortgage Corp., Mortgagee, dated July 21, 2016 and recorded July 25, 2016 in Liber 1639, Page 38 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Nine and 72/100 Dollars ($150,639.72).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on SEPTEMBER 11, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot(s) 10 of SPRINGBROOK TERRACE, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, page(s) 29 of Van Buren County Records.
28143 Springbrook Dr, Lawton, Michigan 49065
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: August 14, 2025
File No. 25-010316
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(08-14)(09-04)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Tara Lynne Colvin; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 8/14/2025; Atty File #: 25-002230-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 11, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Tara Lynne Colvin, a woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 17, 2014 Recorded on May 1, 2014, Liber 1602, on Page 465, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Morgan Stanley Private Bank, National Association Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Six and 03/100 Dollars ($120,806.03) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: LOT 48, ROLLING MEADOWS, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 8 OF PLATS ON PAGE 118, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as 54101 Ridgeview Cir, Paw Paw, MI 49079 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Morgan Stanley Private Bank, National Association Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1569474

(08-14)(09-04)

CLASSIFIEDS

• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER.
Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE-
I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

GRANT DALY PAINTING: Interior/exterior residential, commercial, industrial. Great references & free estimates. Call 657-7893.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING.
Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

BUDGET APPLIANCE SERVICE, 269-685-8902. Call us today for your appliance repair or service needs! Quality service at affordable prices.

PRO HANDYMAN SERVICE
SOUTH HAVEN AREA Call 269-903-6397.

• AUCTION •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE
will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 8/26/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Dylan Barker, 38; Michael Wagner, 74; Terry Mayer, 94; Kimberly Widelski, 332; David Wigner, 329; Jennifer Strey, 315..

• HOUSING•

WANTED IN SOUTH HAVEN
Rental for winter months. Oct 2025 thru April 30, 2026. 3 bedrooms. 240-215-5081.

• FREE STUFF •
FREE ROOFING TAR in 5 gallon buckets or 55 gallon drums, call 269-599-4561.

MEDICARE GURU
Call
Janet Bontrager Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

GET YOUR NEWS ONLINE
Sign Up Today for our E-Paper
IT'S EASY
Just visit our website @ epaper.wilcoxnewspaper.com to start your $20.00 email Subscription.

TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

TO: RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinance No. 08062025 which was adopted by the Pine Grove Township Board at a regular meeting held on August 6, 2025.

ORDINANCE 08062025
ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
COMMERCIAL STORAGE BUILDINGS IN C-2 DISTRICT

SECTION I. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 5.00, SECTION 5.07 SUBSECTION C OF TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE. This section adds a special land use for commercial storage buildings in the C-2 zoning district. All other parts of Section 5.07 Subsection C remain unchanged.

SECTION II. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of the ordinance are severable.

SECTION III. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES/EFFECTIVE DATE. The Ordinance takes effect eight days after publication after adoption. Any conflicting ordinances or parts of ordinances are repealed.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance has been posted in the Office of the Township Clerk at the address set forth below and a copy of the Ordinance may be purchased or inspected at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular working days following the date of this publication.

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP
Michelle Meert, Clerk
26520 CR 388
Gobles, MI 49055
(269) 628-4380

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan is accepting letters of interest to fill one (1) vacancy on the Village Council, term ending November 2026, at which time the appointed member may run for election to a four-year term ending in 2030.

All interested parties are asked to submit a letter of interest along with your qualifications to the Village office or by E-mail. Village Charter states you must be a Village resident for at least one year and have no felony record. Meetings are conducted on the second and fourth Monday of each month and each member must also serve on committees scheduled at other times.

Applications must be received by August 25, 2025.

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue, Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128
offices@mattawanmi.com
Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE VILLAGE OF LAWTON PLANNING COMMISSION

TAKE NOTICE, The Planning Commission for the Village of Lawton will hold a public hearing on September 2, 2025, during a regular meeting of the Planning Commission commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall located at 125 S Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment and consider the following proposed ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TABLES 5.02.A AND 5.03.A, ENACT SECTIONS 5.26 AND 5.27, AMEND SECTION 11.04, AND ENACT SECTIONS 11.13–18 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON

The proposed ordinance is a text amendment that would, among other things, authorize and regulate certain wind turbines and solar panels, regulate wireless communication facilities, and provide for the administration and enforcement of the Village Zoning Ordinance.

Until the close of the public hearing or any adjournment thereof, the proposed ordinance may be obtained, inspected, copied, or reviewed at the Village Clerk's Office during regular hours of operation or by appointment.

Location: 125 S Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065
Hours of operation: Monday – Thursday 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Written comments may be submitted in lieu of or in addition to a personal appearance. Written comments must be received no later than 12 p.m. (noon) on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. Written comments should be addressed to the Planning Commission and must be submitted to the Village Clerk via email at **brathbun@lawtonmi.org** or sent to the following address:

Village of Lawton
Attn: Planning Commission
125 S Main Street
Lawton, MI 49065

Individuals requesting reasonable accommodation for impairments or disabilities should contact the Village Clerk no later than five days prior to the public hearing.

Brittany Rathbun
Village Clerk
brathbun@lawtonmi.org
(269) 624-6407

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-003

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING SECTIONS 42-9 AND ADD A NEW ZONING SECTION 42-20 TO CHAPTER 42, ARTICLE I, OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REGULATE SHORT-TERM RENTALS

The Village of Decatur ordains:

Section 1. Amendment. Zoning section 42-9 is amended such that the definitions beginning with the letter "D" are as follows:

Dwelling means building containing one or more dwelling units.

Dwelling, Multiple-Family means a building containing 3 or more dwelling units, designed for occupancy by 3 or more families living independently of each other.

Dwelling, Single-Family means a building containing 1 dwelling unit designed for occupancy by 1 family.

Dwelling, Two-Family means building containing 2 dwelling units designed for occupancy by 2 families living independently of each other.

Dwelling Unit means a building or portion thereof that is designed for occupancy by not more than 1 family and provides complete living facilities, including permanent provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Section 2. Amendment. Zoning section 42-9 is amended to add the following definitions, which shall be inserted in such a way as to maintain alphabetical order:

Short-term rental unit means a dwelling unit in which short-term rental activity is allowed to occur subject to the terms and conditions of this Ordinance and the Village's Short-Term Rental Units Ordinance (Ordinance #2025-003).

Short-term rental activity means the rental of a dwelling unit for a term of not more than 30 consecutive days. However, short-term rental activity does not include the following: transitional housing operated by a nonprofit entity, group homes such as nursing homes and adult foster care homes, hospitals, or housing provided by a substance abuse rehabilitation clinic, mental health facility, or other health care related clinic, or dwelling units owned by a business entity and made available on a temporary basis to employees of that business entity or employees of a contractor working for that business entity.

Section 3. Amendment. A new zoning section 42-20 is added to Chapter 42, Article III of the Village Code to read as follows:

Sec. 42-20. Short-term Rental Unit.

(a) Any dwelling unit in a single-family dwelling, two-family dwelling, multi-family dwelling with 3 or 4 units, or multi-family dwelling in which all the units are individual condominium units may be used as a short-term rental unit subject to the terms and conditions of this Ordinance and the Village's Short-Term Rental Units Ordinance (Ordinance #2025-003).

(b) Where allowed, short-term rental activity shall be considered a residential accessory use.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective seven days after its publication unless otherwise provided by law.

YEAS: Beute, Jackson, Janssen, Mead Jr., Pachner, Elwaer
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Pelfrey

CERTIFICATION

As the duly appointed Clerk of the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, I certify this is a true and complete copy of an ordinance adopted by the Village Council at its meeting of August 4,2025.

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk

OFFICE OF THE VAN BUREN COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER MCCONNELL & OLCOTT INTERCOUNTY DRAIN

NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

DATE: Wednesday, August 27, 2025
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Van Buren County Administration Building, Third Floor Conference Room, 219 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079
QUESTIONS: (269) 205-3293

The Van Buren County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Apportionments on the above date, time, and location. The Day of Review is an opportunity to review the tentative apportionment of benefits for each parcel and municipality within the McConnell & Olcott Intercounty Drain Drainage District. A map of the McConnell & Olcott Intercounty Drain Drainage District can be found on the Drain Commissioner's website at: https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/515/Meeting-Notices---Notice-Lettings.

The following is a list of any county, township, city, or village to be assessed: Van Buren County and Covert Township.

At the Day of Review:
- No appointment is necessary.
- The Drain Commissioner, engineers and/or other staff members will be available to assist individuals and make revisions where necessary.
- The computation of costs for the Drain will be available.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the Day of Review should contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at the number noted above (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the Day of Review to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Comments
Comments on the apportionment of benefits may be submitted in writing or verbally at the Day of Review. Comments may also be submitted in writing before the date of the Day of Review to:

MAIL: Van Buren County Drain Commissioner, 219 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 301, Paw Paw, MI 49079
EMAIL: VanBurencountydor@gmail.com

Comments submitted in advance must be received by the Drain Commissioner prior to the Day of Review to ensure consideration.

Assessments & Appeal
Drain assessments are collected in the same manner as property taxes and will appear on your winter tax bill. If drain assessments are being collected for more than one (1) year, you may pay the assessment in full with any interest to date at any time and avoid further interest charges.

You may appeal the Drain Commissioner's determination of apportionments to the Van Buren County Probate Court within ten (10) days.

Notice of Letting
The following additional information can be found on the Notice of Bid Letting on the Drain Commissioner's website at: https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/515/Meeting-Notices---Notice-Lettings:
- Number and length of sections, the average width of each section, and if the drain will be closed, the amount and specifications of all tile or pipe required;
- Location, number, type, and size of culverts or bridges to be installed, if any; and
- Conditions upon which the contract will be awarded.

Walnut Street Road Improvement Project underway in Bangor Township

The Van Buren County Road Commission, in partnership with Bangor Township and Bangor Public Schools, is undertaking improvements to Walnut Street from County Road 681 west to the curve northward - a stretch of approximately 0.16 miles.

This project involves applying a double chip seal with a fog seal over the existing gravel surface. This cost-effective treatment is designed for low-traffic gravel roads and aims to:

- Eliminate the need for regular grading
- Reduce mud and dust
- Replace the use of chloride solutions for stabilization and dust control

The double chip seal creates a flexible "mat" surface that requires minimal maintenance, with repairs easily made using hot mix asphalt - similar to standard pothole patching. The expected lifespan of the improved surface is five to seven years, with an estimated cost of $25,000.

Bangor Township Supervisor Mike Sullins explained the collaborative effort behind the project, "Working with Bangor Public Schools to establish a special assessment district allowed us to raise the necessary funds. Because Walnut Street is not under the Road Commission's jurisdiction, the project required coordination between Bangor Schools, Bangor Township, and the Road Commission. Navigating state laws can be complex, but thanks to the Road Commission's expertise, we were able to make this improvement a reality."

Road Commission Managing Director Bret Witkowski noted that the same surface treatment was successfully applied to a more heavily traveled road in Decatur Township (County Road 352) in 2021. "We're pleased to offer this solution for Bangor Schools. The Decatur project has performed well during its evaluation phase, and we'll continue monitoring Walnut Street to make informed decisions in the future for roads under our jurisdiction."

For questions about the Walnut Street project, contact the Van Buren County Road Commission at (269) 674-8011 or email vbcrc@vbcrc.org.

Tickets on sale now for third annual Voices from the Past

PAW PAW - The third annual Voices from the Past Living History Tour will be held Saturday, Oct. 4, in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Paw Paw.

Tickets are on sale now at: www.pawpawlib.org/events through noon on Friday, Oct. 3. Tickets are sold online only and will be picked up on the date and time of your tour. Space is limited.

There are six groups of 20 visitors each. Each group has a designated time slot.

Tours begin at 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30, 3 and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 each with a limit of four tickets per purchase.

The event is held rain or shine and there are no refunds for unused tickets.

Be advised that there is no parking at the cemetery. Tours depart from the Paw Paw Lions Club, 59050 County Road 665, via shuttle. Check-in time for each tour is 15 minutes before your time slot.

Each tour is approximately 60-90 minutes long. The terrain at Prospect Hill can be challenging. Those who attend will need comfortable walking shoes.

This year's hosts are Isaac Willard, Frank Van Ness, Hal Spicer, Harry McNeil, Charles E. Mather, Caroline Johnson and Jeremiah Simmons.

Paw Paw Community Chorus plans Christmas concert

The Paw Paw Community Chorus will begin practicing on September 8, 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, located on the corner of Kalamazoo St. and Pine St. in Paw Paw, in preparation for their 25th Annual Christmas Concert which will be presented on Sunday, December 7, 4 p.m., at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church located at 420 W.

Michigan Avenue, Paw Paw. The chorus, under the direction of Theresa Vaughn, will be accompanied on piano by Evonne Heystek The following selections will be presented by the chorus: "We Are Waiting" by Sally K. Albrecht, Charles Wesley, & Jay Althouse, "There Is Faint Music" by Nancy Buckley & Dan Forrest, "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song) by Amy grant & Chris Eaton/Arr. by Roger Emerson, "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot, "Bring Us Hope" by Ruth Elaine Schram, "In December" by Jay Althouse, "Sending You a Little Christmas" by Jim Brickman, Victoria Shaw & Billy Mann/Arr. by Jay Althouse, "On With the Snow" (A Medley of "Sleigh Ride", "Winter Wonderland", & Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!") Arr. by Douglas E Wagner, and "Ring in the Holidays" by Greg Gilpin.

The chorus welcomes all singers from the Southwest Michigan area to join in this endeavor. For further information, contact E. Ike Porter at 269-366-9864, Bruce Safbom at 630-817-0100, or Theresa Vaughn at (269) 668-4631.

Prosecutor authorizes 66 felony cases for month

For the month of July 2025

Misdemeanor cases authorized – 172

Felony cases authorized - 66

Authorizations by category (not all inclusive):

Absconding on Bond - Felony 1

Assault

Misdemeanor Assault - 1

Assault with a Dangerous Weapon - 8

Resisting/Obstructing/Assaulting a Police Officer - 13

Assault with Intent to Do Great Bodily Harm - 5

Assault with Intent to Murder - 1

Unlawful Imprisonment - 1

Breaking and Entering/Home Invasion - 3

Criminal Sexual Conduct - All Degrees - 1

Child Abuse - 2

Domestic Violence

Misdemeanor - 28

Felony - 4

Fleeing and Eluding a Police Officer - 0

Larceny

Larceny/Retail Fraud – Misdemeanor - 31

Larceny/Retail Fraud – Felony - 4

Unlawful Driving Away of a Vehicle/ Unlawful Use -3

Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property - 3

Embezzlement - 3

Unarmed Robbery - 2

Operating while impaired/intoxicated

Misdemeanor - 21

Felony - 3

Possession/Delivery of a controlled substance other than methamphetamine - 9

Possession/Delivery of methamphetamine - 5

Weapons Charges - 14

you might not know we have life, home, auto and business insurance. now you do.
simple human sense
MCKENZIE INSURANCE
303 E Michigan, Paw Paw, MI 49079
Hrs: Mon-Fri, 9-5; Sat by Appt.
mckenziemi.com • 269.657.2548
Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

GET YOUR NEWS WHERE EVER YOU ARE!
Sign Up Today for our E-Papers.
IT'S EASY!
Just visit our website @
epaper.wilcoxnewspapers.com
to start your $20.00 email Subscription.
FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
The Courier-Leader 75¢
SERVING PAW PAW • LAWTON • MATTAWAN • LAWRENCE • GOBLES • VAN BUREN COUNTY
NO. 71 PO Box 189 • Allegan, MICHIGAN 49010 USPS 564-620
Turnout huge at Beach Ball Drop

Looking for a health system committed to community? That's where we shine.
Working alongside the providers you know and trust while investing to enhance the region's specialty care services, Beacon is creating an improved care destination for our region — inspiring health and connecting with heart.
Learn how Beacon Health is creating a brighter future for patients across southwest Michigan at BeaconHealthSystem.org/Shine.
BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM